ISSN 0712-7774

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM PRESENTS

CEREBUS

37
APR

$1.50

HIGH SOCIETY

DAVE SIM
CREATOR WRITER/ARTIST/LETTERER
PRODUCER/DIRECTOR
NARRATION/CHARACTER VOICES

DENI LOUBERT
ORIGINAL PUBLISHER

JOHN SCRUDDER
PRODUCER/DIRECTOR
CEREBUS DIGITAL
BEHIND THE PANELS
www.behindthepanels.com

GEORGE PETER GATSIS
AUDIO & DIGITAL TECHNICAL PRODUCER
SOUND EFFECTS & MUSIC DESIGNER
ARCHIVE LAYOUT
www.georgepetergatsis.com

SANDEEP ATWAL
PRODUCER
DIGITAL SCANNING
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

DAVE FISHER
for CEREBUS TV
PROMOTION COORDINATOR

MARGARET LISS
Proofreading

PUBLIC DOMAIN
MUSIC & SOUND EFFECTS
GarageBand, Apple Inc.

ISBN : 0-919359-07-8

Dave and Deni met December 16, 1976.
They married October 6, 1978.
Separated August 20, 1983.
Divorced August 1986.

All ads, contests, contact information
in the letters, ads and archive pages are null and void!
IT'S, LIKE, 30 YEARS AGO, EH?

visit us @
www.cerebusdownloads.com

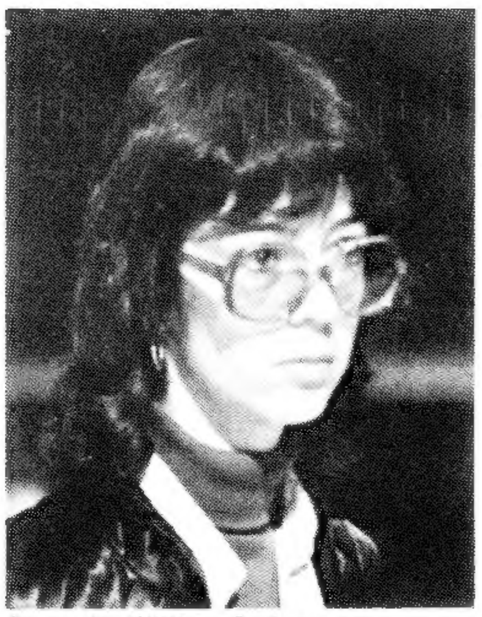


Photo by William C. Johnson

A Note from the Publisher

Not long ago we had printed a letter from a fan in England, concerning some lead figures that Citadel was putting out that looked remarkably like Cerebus. The letter was printed more as a way of venting our anger at this sort of thing than anything else (suing someone in a foreign country is not cheap). So you can imagine our surprise (and delight) when we received a letter in the mail from Rock Bottom Books and Comics. It went like this:

"We here at Rock Bottom have discovered a nice little lead figure of a small burrowing, ant-eating African mammal. Complete with sword and three-disc medallion. Remind you of someone?

This 25 mm figure (by Citadel) is such a look-alike that it seems there is no doubt about it's personality. At least, there is no doubt in our minds who it is. It's Cerebus!!

Anyway, to get to the nitty-gritty and cut the B. S. We've always had a soft-spot for poor, honest, down-on-their-luck artist types. Especially those that are oppressed, put-down, and ripped-off by large, unfeeling companies, and we (that is I, myself, and others) are sick and tired of it! We are sending you a royalty of one whole quarter (25 cents) for each Cerebus figure sold, in hopes that it will calm your nerves, settle your stomach and line your pockets.

Here, enclosed in this envelope is your first cheque for 22 figures for **Tum** Ta-Ta-Daaa! $5.50. We know it's not much, but it makes us feel better about the whole thing and hope it sets an example."

What can I say? A **very big** thank-you to Kim and Glen at Rock Bottom in Columbia, MO. These are the kind of people that make all the hard work worthwhile. I'd sure be curious to know how many other specialty shops are handling these figures and also carry Cerebus.

In asking for a response to our new "Unique Stories" feature in the back of Cerebus -- something very interesting was revealed. It seems that some people are under the impression that Cerebus is shorter because of Unique Stories. On the contrary, Cerebus has remained at twenty pages of story for over two years now. What we did instead, was add eight pages to the book itself. With the four pages of story and four pages of advertising, we are now able to pay artists with the revenues from the ads. This way, no Cerebus story gets cut and no-one has to pay more for the extra four pages of Unique Stories. The extra cost for actually printing another eight pages will continue to be absorbed by Aardvark-Vanaheim as long as our circulation continues to grow. (We are, as of this issue, at 15,000 circulation per month).

As for Unique Stories as it's own title - it just isn't feasible at this time. But from the response we've gotten so far, I have begun to talk to Bill Loebs about doing his own book. What do you think? Would you pay for twenty pages of Bill Loebs every two months? I figure, "What better audience for new and different material than the people who read Cerebus?"

Some people have been asking me what conventions we will be appearing at. So far we have only confirmed two conventions: **THE TORONTO CON, MAY 16TH,** at the Ramada Inn on Carleton Street (both Dave and I will be there) and Dave will be a guest at this year's **CHICAGO CON IN JULY.** I'm hoping to make it to San Diego this year, as last year was Dave's turn to be in sunny southern California. That would be at the end of July -- but I'm not sure yet of that convention. Don't you worry -- I'll let everyone know if either Dave or I (or even, god forbid, both of us!) go to San Diego this summer.

Before I go, a small aside to Matt Denn concerning your request. . . . . the answer is yes. Simple?

Since the hockey season is now finished (with the Toronto Maple Leafs not even in the play-offs, the season ended early for Dave and I) I'll probably write a **real** editorial next issue. (What was this one, a fake one?)

See you then!

Deni

CEREBUS

VOL. 1 NO. 37 APRIL 1982

Publisher
Deni Sim

Distributors:
Bud Plant Inc.
P.O. Box 1886
Grass Valley, CA
95945

Pacific Comics
P.O. Box 99217
San Diego, CA
92109

Glenwood Distribution
124 Vandalia St.
Collinsville, IL
62234

Capital City Distributors
2827 Perry Street
Madison, Wisconsin
53713

Styx Comic Service
Box 3791, Stn. B.
Winnipeg, Man., Canada
R2W 3R6

Now & Then Books
103 Queen St. South
Kitchener, Ont.
N2G 1W1

Silver Snail
323 Queen St. W.
Toronto, Ontario

Titan Distributors
P.O. Box 250
London, E3 4RT
England

Cerebus Fan Club
c/o Fred Patten
11863 West Jefferson Blvd.
Culver City, California
90230
Membership ..... $8.00 per year

Advertising (design)
Abraxas Studio
Richard Bruning
P.O. Box 1606
Madison, Wisconsin
53701

CEREBUS THE AARDVARK is published fifteen times a year by Aardvark-Vanaheim Inc., P.O. Box 1674 Station 'C', Kitchener, Ontario, Canada N2G 4R2, including three "Swords of Cerebus" in winter, spring and fall. All contents © 1982 Dave Sim. Any inquiries regarding use of the characters, images, or situations depicted should be addressed to Deni Sim. No unauthorized reproduction allowed except for review or other Journalistic purpose. Advertising rates furnished on request. Printed in Canada by Preney Print and Litho Inc., Windsor, Ontario.

IT'S SHOWTIME!

DISAPPEARING **RIGHT** AFTER DINNER AND LEAVING **ME** TO EXPLAIN IT TO THE **PRIME MINISTER** ...

ALL MY HARD WORK TO GET THE LEGISLATURE INTO LINE BEHIND US AND **YOU** THROW IT AWAY BY BEING **RUDE!**

YOU **ARE**, WITHOUT A DOUBT **THE** MOST UNGRATEFUL ... MISERABLE... **ILL-MANNERED**...

AYE.

DON'T YOU **DARE** AGREE WITH ME WHEN I'M WINNING AN ARGUMENT ...

I **DON'T** KNOW WHY I **BOTHER!**

I REALLY **DON'T**

YOU DON'T **LISTEN** TO ME...

YOU DON'T LISTEN TO **ANYONE!**

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEEN ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES YOU'RE **SUPPOSED** TO SWAY TO YOUR SIDE...

...AND **YOU** CAN'T EVEN FINISH A *DINNER* WITH THE **PRIME-BLOODY-MINISTER!**

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?

...GIVE THEM HAND-WRITTEN REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT AND HAVE YOU *SIGN THEM?*

...IN CASE YOUR "*HECTIC SCHEDULE*" INTERFERES AGAIN?

YOU DON'T **WANT** TO BE THE RANKING DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE -- IS **THAT** IT...?

CEREBUS-**IS**-THE RANKING-DIPLOMATIC-REPRESENTATIVE

AND-CEREBUS-**WILL-BE** THE RANKING DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE...

UNTIL **CEREBUS** DECIDES **OTHER**WISE!!

I HAVEN'T GOT TIME TO TELL YOU WHAT YOU CAN SAY AND WHAT YOU CAN'T SAY...

SO KEEP TALKING...

BUT DON'T SAY ANYTHING.

YOU MEAN WHAT LORD JULIUS DOES?

IT'S STARTING SLOW, SURE! BUT A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE TO WORK TODAY, RIGHT?

NO, ELROD ISN'T GOING TO SHOW UNTIL AFTER LUNCH.

IS HE GOING TO BE DOING SKETCHES?

BLAKELY. BLAKELY.

I HAVEN'T GOT A BLAKELY.

YOU REMIND ME OF THE DESK CLERK.

TELL THEM WE NEED AT LEAST FIFTY MORE ELROD POSTERS.

ELROD NOW!

YES, BUT BE **DULL** INSTEAD OF **FLIPPANT.**

THE RANKING DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE AND THE DUCHESS OF PARMOC...

RIGHT. HERE ARE YOUR BADGES AND YOUR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS.

WE'RE GOING TO PUT YOU IN THE **OAK ROOM.**

SORRY, WE CAN'T BE RESPONSIBLE FOR STOLEN ITEMS.

NEXT TIME, LEAVE YOUR CHILDREN IN YOUR HOTEL ROOM.

I'VE RENTED ONE OF THE LARGER ROOMS, BUT WE MIGHT STILL HAVE TOO BIG A CROWD TO HANDLE...

IF IT STARTS GETTING CRAMPED JUST ASK ONE OF THE STAFF FOR A SECURITY GUARD...

IF YOU'LL REMEMBER **I** WAS THE FIRST ONE TO RISE AND MOVE THAT ELROD BE GRANTED AN ENTRANCE VISA.

AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT HE *TOLD* ME AT LAST NIGHT'S ***PRIVATE*** RECEPTION.

AND HE WAS ***SINCERELY*** GRATEFUL...

THIS IS THE *OAK ROOM*...

REMEMBER KEEP TALKING-- SHAKE HANDS...

AND TRY TO LOOK...

...IMPORTANT.

YOU'D BETTER SEND FOR THE *SECURITY GUARD*--CEREBUS WILL NEVER MAKE IT THROUGH THOSE HORDES ***ALIVE***.

GO IN AND SIT DOWN.

SOMEONE'S MADE A ***MISTAKE***, --THAT'S ALL.

I'LL BE BACK SHORTLY ...

Jake—

Cerebus would like

very, very, very much

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I WISH ONLY TO SERVE MY LIEGE.

LOOK--

CEREBUS IS TRYING TO SAVE HIS JOB, SO ...

WHY?

HUH?

WHAT I MEAN IS-- WHY SAVE SOMETHING SO... INAPPROPRIATE?

SURELY, THERE IS SOME MORE WORTHWHILE VOCATION FOR THE EARTH-PIG BORN.

UH-HUH.

STUFF STUFF

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE INFERIOR BREED OF PERSON TO WHOM THE IDIOT MASSES FIND THEMSELVES DRAWN IN A FREE ELECTION

ONE CAN HARDLY SEE **ANY** POSITION BENEATH THAT OF *PRIME MINISTER* AS BEING SUFFICIENTLY AMUSING...

CAN ONE?

UH-OH.

AGAINST THAT WALL.

ONE IS SIMPLY COMPELLED TO QUESTION THE WISDOM OF STEERING THE SHIP FROM INSIDE THE ANCHOR...

PSSST.

M'LORD?

CAN WE--UH-- TALK ABOUT THIS LATER?

AH! "HE WILL ABIDE NONE WHO INTERFERE WITH HIS LIFE, HIS WAYS OR HIS MANY WIVES AND CONCUBINES..!!"

I QUITE **UNDERSTAND.**

MILADY.

FREE FOOD. IT SHOULD ATTRACT THE REPRESENTATIVES.

IT'S YOUR JOB TO **KEEP** THEM HERE.

WHAT'S ALL THIS?

WHO WAS **THAT** BY THE WAY?

HUH?

OH. NOBODY **IMPORTANT.** DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

I DIDN'T ASK FOR YOUR OPINION!

I ASKED FOR INFORMATION ...

WHO WAS THAT?

JUST SOME NUT--THAT'S ALL!

HE SAID CEREBUS! JOB WASN'T IMPORTANT ENOUGH...

OH.

HE SAID CEREBUS SHOULD BE PRIME MINISTER...

TWELVE... SIXTEEN... TWENTY-THREE... FORTY-TWO FIFTY-ONE!

TERIM'S BLOOD...

FLIP!!

IT ISN'T CEREBUS' FAULT; CEREBUS KEEPS TELLING HIM TO TAKE A HIKE...

FIFTY-FOUR!

FIFTY-SIX!!

SIXTY-THREE!!

FLIP FLIP FLIP FLIP

AND NINE UNDECIDED!!

BUT HE JUST KEEPS COMING BACK.

I'LL BE BACK LATER!!

AYE.

and very, very sincerely

HEY!

HEY, YOU! WIT' D'EARS!

HEY!...

DIS P'TATA SALAD IS GRATE...

WHERED'JA GET DIS STUFF ANYHOW?

IT CAME WITH THE ROOM.

CAME WIDDA ROOM?!

HEY-- DAT'S PRIDDY FUNNY...

WUDDA YOUZ A COMEDIAN?

CEREBUS IS THE RANKING DIPLOMATIC ...

CARABUS?

RILLY!?

HEY! HEY!

DIS IS YOUAH LUCKY DAY! I REPRESEN' DADOCKS!!

STUFF STUFF

YOU REPRESENT *WHAT?*

DADOCKS!

DADOCKS!

WHERE DA BOATS COME IN-- DA DOCKS!! ...

OH.

THE *DOCKS.*

AT'S WHUD I SAID.

DA DOCKS.

LISSEN.

...AHHH...

WE COULD **HELP** EACH UDDAH, YA KNOW?

A LIDDLE ENCARAGEMENT GOES A LONG WAY...

MONEY?

I FIGYUH--TWO GRAND... IN SMALL BILLS! THAT WAY, WHEN YOUAH SHIP COMES IN ...

IT'LL **MAKE** IT...

IF Y'FOLLA ME?

WHAT *ELSE* DOES CEREBUS GET?

WHUD *ELTZ?...*

WHUD *ELTZ?*

WUDDEM I? DA *GOODWILL?*

I'M DOON YUH A ***FAVUH...***

CEREBUS WILL HAVE TO *THINK* ABOUT IT...

FOIN!

FOIN!

LIVE ON NUTS AND BARRIES F' DA RESTA YUH LIFE!

NUTS AND BERRIES?

BEAUTIFUL, *BEAUTIFUL.*

I'M *HIP!* I'M *HIP!*

CAN YOU *BELIEVE* IT?

CAN YOOU *BE-E-LIEVE* IT?

WO!!

HEY! *HEY!*

WOO! *WOO!*

HEY! HEY! HEY!

WOO! WOO! WOO!

HEYYYYUH!

IT *MUST* BE A REAL PLEASURE TO MEET ME, HUH?

YA HA HA HA HA HA

I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW MUCH I'M ENJOYING YOUR *POTATO SALAD* !!!

WOULD YOU SIGN THIS PIECE OF PAPER?

WHAT IS IT? A *CHEQUE*?

"A *CHEQUE*!"

WHAT DID I TELL YOU?

ISN'T HE A *RIOT*!?

WHY NO-- IT'S JUST A PIECE OF PAPER... MY WIFE MADE ME PROMISE TO GET YOUR *SIGNATURE* !!!

YEAH?

SKRTCHA SKRTCHA SKRTCHA

ME NEXT!

ME! ME!

CAN YOU DO *MINE* NOW? I HAVE TO LEAVE.

CAN I HAVE A *SKETCH*, TOO?

ONE AT A TIME!!

HEY! HE'S SIGNING AUTOGRAPHS ... C'MON!

WHO IS HE?

I DON'T KNOW, BUT *EVERYONE* ELSE IS GETTING ONE.

HOW DO YOU LIKE THE REGENCY?

WHERE'S ASTORIA?

ARE YOU GOING TO BE HERE TOMORROW?

DID YOU *REALLY* WALK OUT ON THE PRIME MINISTER?

ARE YOU RICH?

YEAH -- AND WHAT ABOUT THE *GRAND INQUISITOR*?

DID YOU *REALLY* TELL HIM TO JUMP OFF A *BRIDGE*?

WHAT'S ELROD *REALLY* LIKE?

DID HE *REALLY* RIP THE DOOR OFF ITS HINGES TO HELP YOU ESCAPE FROM SERREA?

FINE.
ELSEWHERE.
AYE.
AYE.
NOT YET.
NO.
ELROD.
DEFINITELY NOT.
Cerebus

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT *I'D* LIKE TO KNOW, M'LORD.
I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE...
...LIVING WITH LORD JULIUS' EX-WIFE...
SNAP
TSK TSK. HAVE ONE OF MINE...
AYE.
AS LONG AS IT'S *SMEARED* ANYWAY, BE A GOOD CHAP AND TURN IT INTO A ***TREE***, HMM?

SO? WHAT ***IS*** IT LIKE?
CEREBUS CAN'T TALK RIGHT NOW ...
CEREBUS IS SKETCHING A TREE!
SKETCHING?
DID HE SAY... SKETCHING?
I THINK HE DID...
ANYONE HAVE SOME PAPER WITH THEM?

COULD YOU MAKE THE TOP BRANCH A LITTLE LONGER?

NO SWEAT.

MARVELOUS DETAIL...

LEAVES? WHEN DID HE START DOING ***LEAVES***?

MINE WAS THE FIRST

HE SAID HE MIGHT BE DOING *ROCKS* TOMORROW...

REALLY!

SAY!

WHAT DO ***ELROD***'S SKETCHES LOOK LIKE?

WHY--

I DON'T THINK I'VE ***SEEN*** ONE...

HAVE *YOU*?

NO, BUT I'VE *HEARD* RUMOURS THAT THEY'RE *QUITE* SOMETHING

HE *PROBABLY* DOES A ***LOUSY*** TREE.

FINALLY

Cerebus: When the representatives are called for a vote return to the suite and STAY THERE! Don't talk to anyone! Astoria...

NOW?

ONE MORE BRANCH.

AALMOOST...

DONE!

THANKS

HEY! CEREBUS KNOWS YOU -- YOU'RE THAT ARTIST AND COLLECTOR...
...CHAP. *
FWUMP
*CEREBUS No.25
YOU KNOW WHAT THOSE ARE?...
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT THOSE ARE ...

YOU!

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEEN **FULLY-RENDERED SKETCHES** -- GIFTS FROM LORD JULIUS TO THE **ART-STARVED REPRESENTATIVES**...

LANDSCAPES! PETS! BUILDINGS! BRIDGES! SUN**SETS**! SUN**RISES**!

YOU NAME IT AND **I** DREW IT -- HIDING THE WORDS "VOTE FOR ELROD" IN EACH BACKGROUND.

FIFTY-FIVE HUNDRED CROWNS I WAS SUPPOSED TO GET...

ENOUGH TO PAY TWO YEARS RENT ON MY CASTLE UP NORTH...

NOW--

THANKS TO **YOU**--

EVERYONE WANTS AN **ORIGINAL ELROD SKETCH INSTEAD.**

ESPECIALLY LORD JULIUS SINCE IT DOESN'T **COST** HIM ANYTHING...

HERE!

HAVE AN *ELROD* "BUNNY"

HAVE A DOZEN!

HAVE A HUNDRED!

HE-CAN-DO-ONE-EVERY-FIVE-DAMN-SECONDS!

BUNNIES.

CUTE.
RAZAFRAZZIN' "BUNNIES"
RAZAFRAZZIII' "TREES"
RAZAFRAZZIN' POLITICIANS...

make cheques payable to:

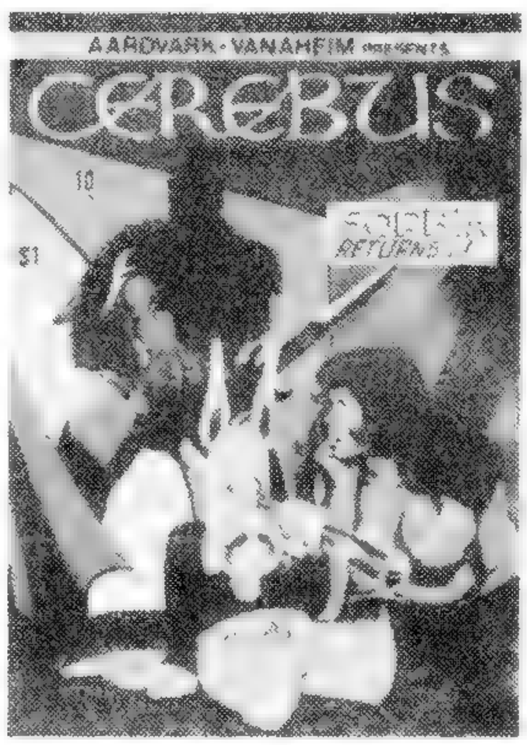
NOW & THEN BOOKS

103 Queen St. S.
Kitchener, Ontario N2G 1W1
PHONE (519) 744-5571

Back Issues

No. 8 $7.00

No. 9 $7.00

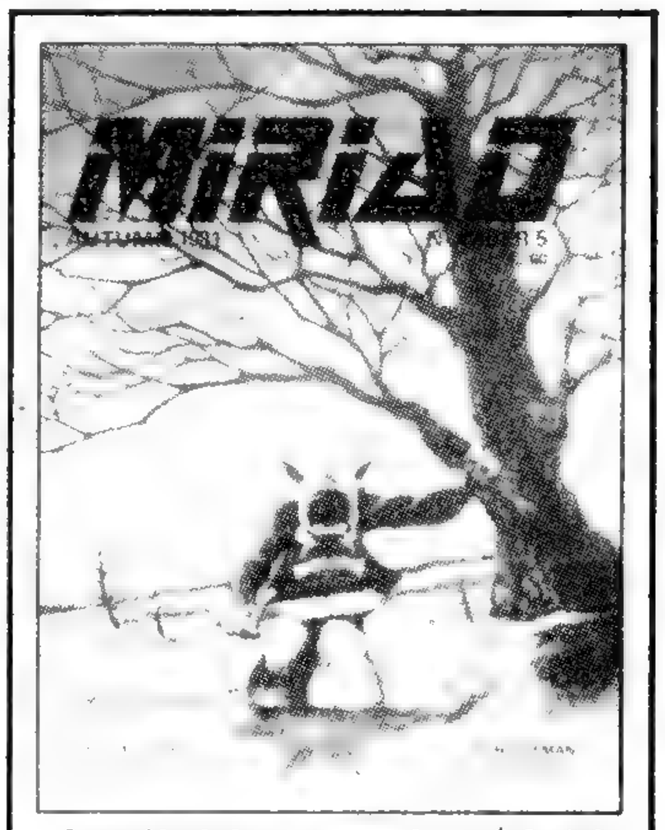


No. 10 $7.00

11 - 12 $7.00 ea. 17, 18 - 22 $3.00 ea. 25 - 37 $1.50 ea. 60¢ postage per book

Sword of Cerebus Vol 1-3 $5,00 - 75¢ postage and handling

Diamondback Cards $2.95 - 75¢ postage and handling



Available now for $2.00
50¢ Postage and Handling

MIRIAD NO. 5

"Latest issue of the Toronto-based MIRIAD magazine. Far-ranging interview with Dave Sim, including photos and many illustrations. Featuring cover painting of Cerebus by Kevin Davies.

Also available Miriad No. 6

Original Artwork $2.00 postage and handling

(Pages Available) — list alternates

$25 per page

No. 2 pgs. 10, 11, 22
No. 3 pgs. 7, 15, 18, 21
No. 5 pgs. 2, 3, 5, 10, 11, 16
No. 8 pg. 15
No. 10 pgs. 9, 12, 13, 14, 15 17, 18
No. 11 pgs. 2, 17, 21
No. 13 pgs. 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
No. 14 pgs. 6, 7

$30 per page

No. 15 pgs. 4, 7, 9, 20
No. 16 pgs. 4,7, 8, 9, 10, 11 12, 13, 15, 18, 19
No. 17 pgs. 7, 8, 10, 12, 20
No. 18 pgs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 13, 15 18, 20
No. 19 pgs. 3, 4, 5, 6,
No. 20 pgs. 1, 19, 20

No. 21 pgs. 1, 9, 12, 20
No. 22 pgs.4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12 13, 15, 16
No. 23 pgs. 14, 15, 18, 19

Demonhorn Story (Nucleus) pgs. 3, 4, 5

$40 per page

No. 24 pgs. 7, 8, 18, 19
No. 25 pags. 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 19
No. 26 pg. 8
No. 28 pgs. 17, 19, 20

Subscriptions

12 issues for $22.00 in Canada, $25.00 in U.S. or Foreign (includes all postage) wrapped securely and mailed flat. Indicate which issue subscription starts with.

Beavers Strip Originals

(1976-1977) $8.00 ea.

Poster

$2.50 EACH
(signed and numbered)
4 colour 1977
50¢ postage and handling

FINE CONDITION

Cerebus No.1

$200.00 U.S.

Only one available.
Must be certified check or money order

Other "Sim Stuff"

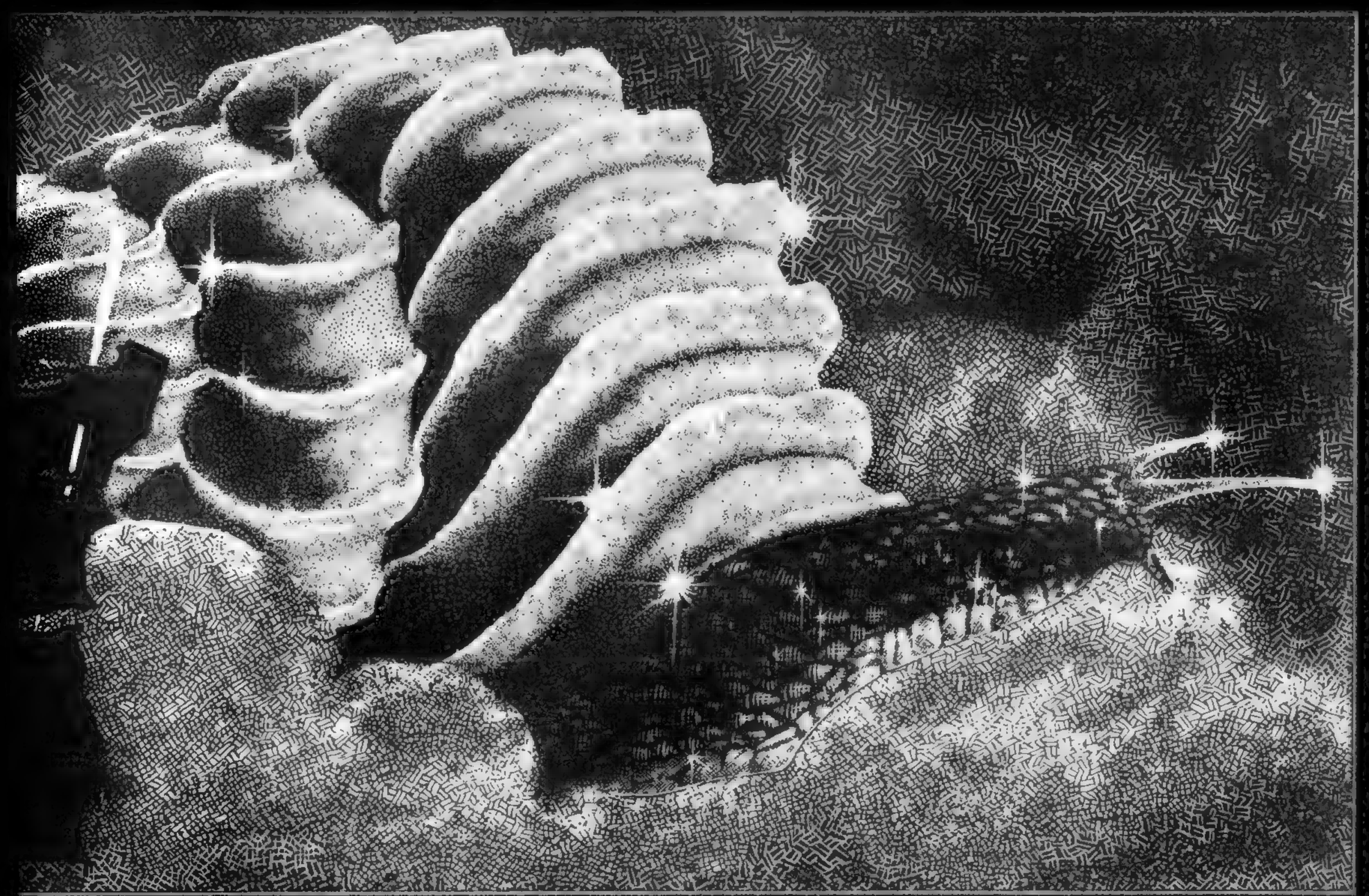
Oktoberfest 1 (1976) Dave Sim and Gene Day ... $1.00 ea.
Star*Reach 7 ... $1.50 ea.

Quack 3, 4, & 5 ... $1.50 ea.
Imagine 1 & 4 ... $1.50 ea.

MARVEL
D.C.
WARREN
STARLOG
HEAVY METAL
COMIC JOURNAL
COMIC FEATURE
PREVUE
MEDIA SHOWCASE
STARBURST
FUTURE
OMNI
CEREBUS
QUESTAR
DOCTOR WHO
NATIONAL LAMPOON
SPIRIT
CINEFANTASTIQUE
ELFQUEST
CINEMAGIC
FANTASTIC ART
DISNEY
FRAZETTA
MARVEL COMIC INDEX

PLUS ONE OF TORONTO'S LARGEST SELECTIONS

323 QUEEN ST. W., TORONTO, ON



STAR TREK
UNDERGROUNDS
STAR WARS
SPECIAL EFFECTS
FIRST KINGDOM
EPIC
DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
FLASH GORDON
SCIENCE FICTION TOYS
SCIENCE FICTION MODELS
NOSTALGIA
POGO

ASTERIX
ROBERT E. HOWARD
CONAN
EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS
POSTERS
PORTFOLIOS
MOVIE POSTERS
COMIC BAGS
BINDERS
GUM CARDS
EC LIBRARY

OF COLLECTOR ITEMS AND BACK ISSUE COMICS.

T. M5V 2A4 PHONE 416—366-3642

A UNIQUE STORY

HUH... NO RE-INCARNATION, **BEN?** POWER-WISE, THAT'S ODD... I AM THE ULTIMATE SAY-SO IN THE **COSMOS.** YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE A HAMPSTER!

BUT THAT'S *POWER* FOR YA... IT BE-TRAYS YA. SWITCHES AROUND... WHEELS TURN... YA GOTTA BE **TOUGH**... I'M TOUGH...

I TRIED TO RUN THE **UNIVERSE** STOICALLY BUT THE CHRISTER'S OBJECTED... I TRIED BEING MINDLESS *FORCE* AND THEY SAID "GOD IS DEAD".

AND THEY DESTROY-ED THEMSELVES RATHER THAN **OBEY** ME.

ZEUS IS *BETTER*, BEN. ZEUS NEEDS NOBODY, AND HE DOES **WHAT-EVER** HE WANTS. WHEN I WAS A KID WE USED TO PRETEND WE WERE ZEUS... KILLING WHO WE WANTED..

IMPREGNATING ANYONE WE LIKED... BECOMING ANY ANIMAL... ANY OLD THING... **ZEUS** IS *FLEXIBLE*... MAN OR DEVIL... GOD OR SATAN ...IT'S ALL ONE **BALL** OF **WAX**... IN OTHER WORDS ...

...Welcome to Dr. Franklin.!

©1982 Wm. Francis Lobs

FAR OUT... LIGHT SHOW!

"...IN OTHER WORDS..."

BUT EVEN **ZEUS** NEEDS A *LEMAN*, KIDS!

Y'KNOW, IMPACTING THE OL' **SEX** OPTION...? A MISTRESS... BUT NOT JUST ANY MISTRESS... I WAS... **AM**... AN EMPEROR... AND AN *EMPEROR* TAKES THE **QUEEN** OF HIS CONQUERED FOES TO CONCUBINAGE!

"...IMPACTING THE OL' SEX OPTION..."

THUS, FOR THE TRIUMPH OF **ZEUS** TO BE COMPLETE, I HAD TO CO-OPT THE SYMBOL OF **VIRGINITY** AND CHRISTIAN STRENGTH TO SERVICE MY NEEDS. THE PERFECT...

ENOUGH, **MARCUS.**

THERE IS NO NEED TO MAKE A **MYSTERY**... I HAVE KNOWN FOR A TIME THAT YOUR SECRETARY IS ALSO YOUR *LIGHT LOVE*... AND GUESSED FROM YOUR **UNSUBTLE** CLEWS JUST *WHO* SHE MUST BE...

YOU ARE **SAINT JOAN.** ARE YOU NOT, MY CHILD...?

NO.

NO?

NO.?!!

NO? OH, WOW.. SOAP OPERA!

MY NAME IS **ENID GILLSWORTHY.**

I WAS PRESIDENT OF THE **JOAN OF ARC** SOCIETY IN KNOLLSPARK, VERMONT, IN 1852. I LOVED JOAN FOR HER COURAGE AND CHASTITY AND FAITH. WHEN I DIED AND CAME TO THIS...HEAVEN, I FOUND GOD WAS PAGAN AND MY RELIGION WAS A **JOKE.** BUT MARCUS BELIEVED I WAS JOAN AND HE DESIRED ME...THE **CREATOR** HIMSELF... HOW COULD IT BE *WRONG?* AND I SO WANTED TO BE JOAN OF ARC... BUT NOW I SEE I WAS ONLY AN INSTRUMENT OF RIDICULE.

IF **MARCUS** NEVER LOVED ME THEN I HAVE NO REASON TO LIVE...

GOOD POINT.

ZAP!

MARCUS

OH, WOW **FLAMED** AGAIN... *UN*-COOL.!

HA! *LIVE* LIKE A SAINT... *TOAST* LIKE A SAINT! ARE YOU A ***SAINT***, BEN?

ZAP!

GOOVEY SPOT FOR A FOXHOLE, MAN... S'KARMA.

HUH! SMELLS LIKE THE NAPALM THEY USE IN ***VIETNAM***...

COME ***OUT***, BEN... I'M UP T'MY *ELBOWS*, POWER-WISE!

VEE-AT-NAM?

YEH, Y'KNOW... ***VIETNAM***, WORLD WAR I WORLD WAR II, KOREA, NORTHERN IRELAND, INDIA-PAK...

MARCUS!

THEE TOLD ME THAT HUMANITY ***POISONED*** IT-SELF IN A *GREAT* MODERN WAR. BUT THERE HAVE BEEN *MANY* WARS, NOT *ONE*, AND THE WORLD HAST REMAINED ***WHOLE!***

ZAP!

THOU ***DESTROYED*** THE EARTH TO DECEIVE ME... TO MAKE ME BELIEVE HUMANITY WAS BEYOND HELP... TO ENLIST MY SYMPATHIES SO I WOULD BE THY ***AIDE***... A *TICKLE* TO THY VANITY!

ZAP!

ZAP!

HOW ***DARE*** THEE *LIE* TO ME, ***MARCUS***.!?

I WILL ***NOT*** BE *GULLED* OR *DIDDLED*, ***MARCUS***!

ZAP!

ZAP!

ZAP!

DOST THOU HEAR ME, MARCUS.?

DOST THOU.?

UNHAND ME, PLEBE!!! HOW DARE YOU TOUCH ZEU.!?

...S'FUNNY... MY ARM HURTS...

POWER...

THE STARS ARE GOING OUT.

RUN!

WHERE?

WHEN GOD DIES THE UNIVERSE PERISHETH.

OH, WOW...HEAVY...

TO BE CONTINUED...

13 SPIRIT STORIES

IN FULL COLOR!

IN HARDCOVER FOR ONLY $11.95!

KITCHEN SINK PRESS

SPIRIT COLOR ALBUM

A book SPIRIT fans have been demanding for years! Thirteen full-length SPIRIT stories in *full-color*... Each has been recolored by Keith Diaczun under Will Eisner's personal supervision. Stories included are: *The Origin of the Spirit* (1946), *The Guilty Gun, Ten Minutes, Perfect Crime, The Emerald of Rajapur* and 8 more! All presented in a European-style *hardcover album*, with color wraparound cover and long-lasting sewn-binding. The first in a series of Eisner/Spirit collections. And priced at the amazingly low $11.95! Available now!

COMING in FEBRUARY: *WILL EISNER COLOR TREASURY!!* A 112-page *hardcover* book containing 2 more *color Spirit* stories; most of the Warren *Spirit* covers, recolored by Eisner himself, the Kitchen *Spirit* covers without blurbs or logos, the *City* and *Spirit Portfolio* plates, obscure illustrations in *color*, and text by Cat Yronwode. Advance orders being taken. Just $13.95!

KITCHEN SINK PRESS
No.2 Swamp Road, Princeton, Wisconsin 54968

☐ Send me ___ copy(s) of **The Spirit Color Album, Vol.1,** at $11.95 plus 80c postage per copy!

☐ Send me ___ copy(s) of **Will Eisner Color Treasury,** at $13.95 plus 80c postage per copy! *Send immediately upon publication in January!*

I have enclosed a total of $ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Wisconsin residents must add 4% Sales Tax to total.

AARDVARK COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C', KITCHENER, ONTARIO N2G 4R2

Jeezus Crist, Dave -

I just got the stats from the first half of # 36 to do the ad . . . . You bring back Jaka, and Cerebus breaks her heart . . . . if I was some wimpy fan, I'd weep. "snif"

Richard Bruning
P. O. Box 1606
Madison, Wisconsin

This is my first reaction to # 36, from our advertising director, Wimpy. If I broke your heart, I'd love to hear from you. Just write "You broke my heart" c/o this comic book. Female letters will be given preference, (of course).

Dave

Thanks for the aardvark. This must be the only comic book I continue to enjoy and I think you maintain a fine standard. Maybe he shouldn't be, but after Cerebus himself, Elrod remains my favorite character. I think the drawing and general quality of the book is far higher than any other I've seen and I hope that you manage to maintain it. The character of Cerebus himself is a masterly conception! Thanks again. Very best wishes.

Michael Moorcock
somewhere in England

I've been thinking of printing a T-shirt for myself that says "I exploit albinos". If I ever do it, I'll be sure to send you one, too. Nice intimate little clique, you know?

Dear Dave and Deni

The final exchange between Astoria and Cerebus in # 33 was worthy of Nero Wolfe and Archie Goodwin. In fact, though the parallel is not a close one, that about sums up the realtionship of the economist and the aardvark these past few issues: a mysterious planner and slightly bufuddled but worldly-wise legman.

At any rate, the transition between issues # 33 and # 34 was an especially graceful one. When/if the two end up together in a future **Swords of Cerebus** volume, I hope that you'll forgo the usual short intro and let one flow into the next.

It seems to be old home week in Palnu, what with Elrod, the Cockroach and MacMuffin all prowling the streets. Cerebus' jumpiness is becoming increasingly understandable. It's bad enough running into one of those crazies at a time, but taking them on en masse is ridiculous. Having to deal with Astoria, the elf, and the inquisition can't be helping matters much either. It seems that urban stress doesn't agree with Cerebus, which I assume is the point of the current storyline.

As usual, Dave, your art is consistantly enjoyable. I'm especially impressed with the variety and quality of city backdrops. Iest is rapidly taking on the feel of a "real" city, like Duckburg or (Eisner's) Central City. The only significant complaint is about the increasing reliance on all-black backgrounds for interior scenes. (Is there some horrible energy crisis in the Regency?) I much preferred the array of penstrokes that filled the dead space in previous issues.

At the risk of making you even more "damned mad", I'll add my voice to the complaints about the new material in the SWORDS books. Though I can't say I've been with you from the first, the reprints have just caught up with my earliest issues. It does seem a little unfair to penalise longstanding fans by including essential new material in the compilations. How about the second reprint book to re-print the non-reprints from the first reprint book? (Whew!) Of course, it will be a while before enough accumulates to make such a project reasonable, but the basic idea seems feasable. You could include the Cerebus stuff that appeared outside the regular comic, such as the **TBG** pages.

Pierce Askegren
Sterling, Virginia

Thanks to Pierce and everyone else who wrote in with the ranking diplomatic resolution to the "new material in Swords" debate. Somewhere up ahead, we'll issue a Cerebus-sized comic with all of the Swords material not elsewhere available. After intensive study and a great deal of thought (and to make this answer look longer) I've decided it will come out around issue # 50. Bug your comic shop about it until then.

On the subject of "reprint transition", all of "High Society" will be reprinted under one introduction. I am even toying with the idea of adding a few transition pages to the reprint volume (ie: Cerebus walking back to the hotel as the sun comes up between # 36 and this issue, which was edited out due to space limitations).

Now, who wants a book that reprints all the transition pages? A portfolio of **Swords** covers.

Dear Dave and Deni

I've only been reading **Cerebus** for four issues, despite the fact that I've been reading comics for seven years and have been having **Cerebus** recommended to me for the past two years. When I saw ads containing Moon Roach, I figured I'd finally try it out, and I could curse myself for not buying the Earth-pig's adventures earlier.

He's great! I'm hooked! It's increadably refreshing to see comics that are not only created with incredible skill but which are geared to fans in satire, parody, and illusion. Each ish is a volume of relevance and importance. And the stylized art creates so much mood that often the humour that would be nigh

CEREBUS ORIGINAL ART

I am now offering pages of Cerebus for sale at $100.00 per page. Payment is in U.S. currency for rich Americans, $110.00 Canadian per page for victims of Allan MacEachen's budget. I have issue 30 to the present, complete. I am not selling certain pages (all of # 36, for example). I want to sell a few pages a month, so if they start moving too fast, the price goes up. The pages will be mailed to you after I draw each issue (generally the first of the month). . . . or allow four weeks for delivery if you want to get formal about it. Certified cheques or money orders only, payable to Aardvark-Vanaheim Inc. at the address above. Please list as many alternatives as you can. Sorry, I don't have time to send out lists of whats sold and what isn't. There is no discount for quantity, so please don't ask.

AARDVARK COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C', KITCHENER, ONTARIO N2G 4R2

undetectable when illustrated by anyone else is made riotous in such a way that you've just got to run out and show it to somebody.

As I read more and more of Cerebus, I want to know more and more about him; he is one of the most appealing characters in comics today. I'd like to thank you for SWORDS OF CEREBUS, hence making the history of his whole world available to everyone. I don't understand why older CEREBUS readers are so upset at having to pay alot for stuff they already have just to get a new story; I should think that all completists would want these well-packaged volumes even sans the new stuff!

As for the folks who still say that mainstream comics suck, they can go take a long walk on a short pier; that may have been a valid statement a couple of years ago, when Marvel was being indecisive as to whether it should try to regain the lost style of it's past or move ahead into new space, but over the past couple of years, even up to four or five years ago, the titles one by one turned into new and fascinating series. Sure, they're different from a Lee/Ditko **Spider-Man**, but the past cannot be dwelled upon -- things must move forward. Look at Miller's **Daredevil, Moon Knight,** the refurbished **Spider-Man,** Byrne's **Fantastic Four, The X-Man,** or **Doctor Strange,** and see of you can still truthfully say that you think mainstream comics suck. As for the barbaric methods of the publishers, they are almost all disappearing. The new incentive payments plan, the specialized titles, and direct-only books are evidence to that.

Heck, I think I picked a darn good time to get into comics, and I'd like to thank you both for making my fannish existence that much more enjoyable with **Cerebus.**

H. Scott Jones
910 North Avenue
Zephyrhills, Florida 33599

About the only issue I would take with your comments re: mainstream comics is on the subject of "barbaric methods". I side with the judgement that returned the rights to **L'll Abner** *to Al Capp, essentially because Capp felt his strip was not being promoted or handled correctly. This attitude of the artist entrusting a publisher with his creations as long as they are handled in the most (mutually) profitable manner, I feel, would have to be the cornerstone of comics publishing theory if we are to believe that happy days are here again. It's certainly an interesting precedent, anyway.*

Thank you for your nice words about Cerebus.

Dear Dave and Deni

All right, I know what you're up to! You don't fool me for a minute! (More like four days). In issue # 34, Lord Julius is going to come to lest to find out what his ranking diplomatic representative is up to (raising tariffs and all); he'll get into an argument with Elrod, while Cerebus is hiding in a cupboard (to get away from the elf as much as Elrod or Lord Julius); When they find out where Cerebus is, they go storming into his room, the elf will attack them, and they'll be in the cupboard too -- leading to the much-heralded issue 35, first discussed in Swords of Cerebus Vol. 1! (Can I have a job plotting Cerebus?)

When is the elf making her guest appearance in **Elfquest**? Or even getting a name? And whatever happened to that Elfguest story?

It's nice to be part of popular opinion (re Diamondback). How much is the fan-club for over-seas readers?

What's all this about Cerebus closing down? Why March, 2005? You just don't have any faith in yourself, boy.

If there is another Cerebus portfolio, will it have other characters in as well? Heeheehee.

Peter Murray
168 Crofton Lane
Orpington, Kent England

1) *No*
2) *You'll have to ask Richard or Wendy, but my guess is never.*
3) *That* **is** *her name -- The Regency Elf. Call her "the" for short.*
4) *I'm waiting for the right place and right time.*
5) *Overseas rates for the fan club are $10.00 per year.*
6) *All good things come to an end.*
7) *Why not?*
8) *Yes. Heeheehee*
   on second thought, don't bother numbering the questions, I'll just number the answers.

Dear Dave and Deni

I have been collecting Cerebus since # 17 and I love it. You are the best artist in the world!!! If you keep putting out these comic books you have a true follower!!!!!

P. S. Did you know that # 1 is going for $110.00, believe me, you're popular.

Clive Henrick
3177 Manchester C. T.
Palo Alto, Ca 94303

Why? **I** *didn't go for $110.00*

Dear Dave, Deni and Cerebus

It's me again. Hi there! Here I am writing you another letter. I decided I didn't like the first one, though thank you for publishing it anyway, it made me real happy. I've decided that this time I'm not letting my admiration for the fantastic job you're doing get in my way and make me blab like a zealot (See that, bet you didn't think Cerebus fans knew fancy words like "zealot". We're full of suprises). Anyway, this time I'm going to be very critical and inscrutable and nary a compliment do you get unless I absolutely can't help giving it away.

The last issue I read, owing to the vagaries (Don't ask me what it means; I just use 'em, I don't make 'em up.) of my comic seller's distributor, is issue # 32, so I can't tell you I'm happy that he made up with the Elf, or outwitted the High Church, because I don't know if these things have come to pass. All I ask is that you bear with me, as I haven't seen a Cerebus for months now.

As for the last issue I did see, may I compliment you on your --- oops, silly question, of course I can't. On to the criticisms. If you have a fault, (in your stories, I mean, who am I to judge your private life?) it is that things are not always -- indeed, not ever --as simple as they appear at first. Cerebus started out as a mercenary who was usually on top of things,and now he's a mercenary who's always at the bottom of things. The Cockroach started as a nut in a bug suit, and now he's a nut in a bug suit with a power hungry Pyramid person (at least that's what I think she is) controlling him. By the way, while we're talking about the Cootie, I really can't avoid complimenting you on him. You're the only person I know who can bring a character back in a third incarnation as a parody of a take-off of the character he was originally parodying.Now that's class, man.

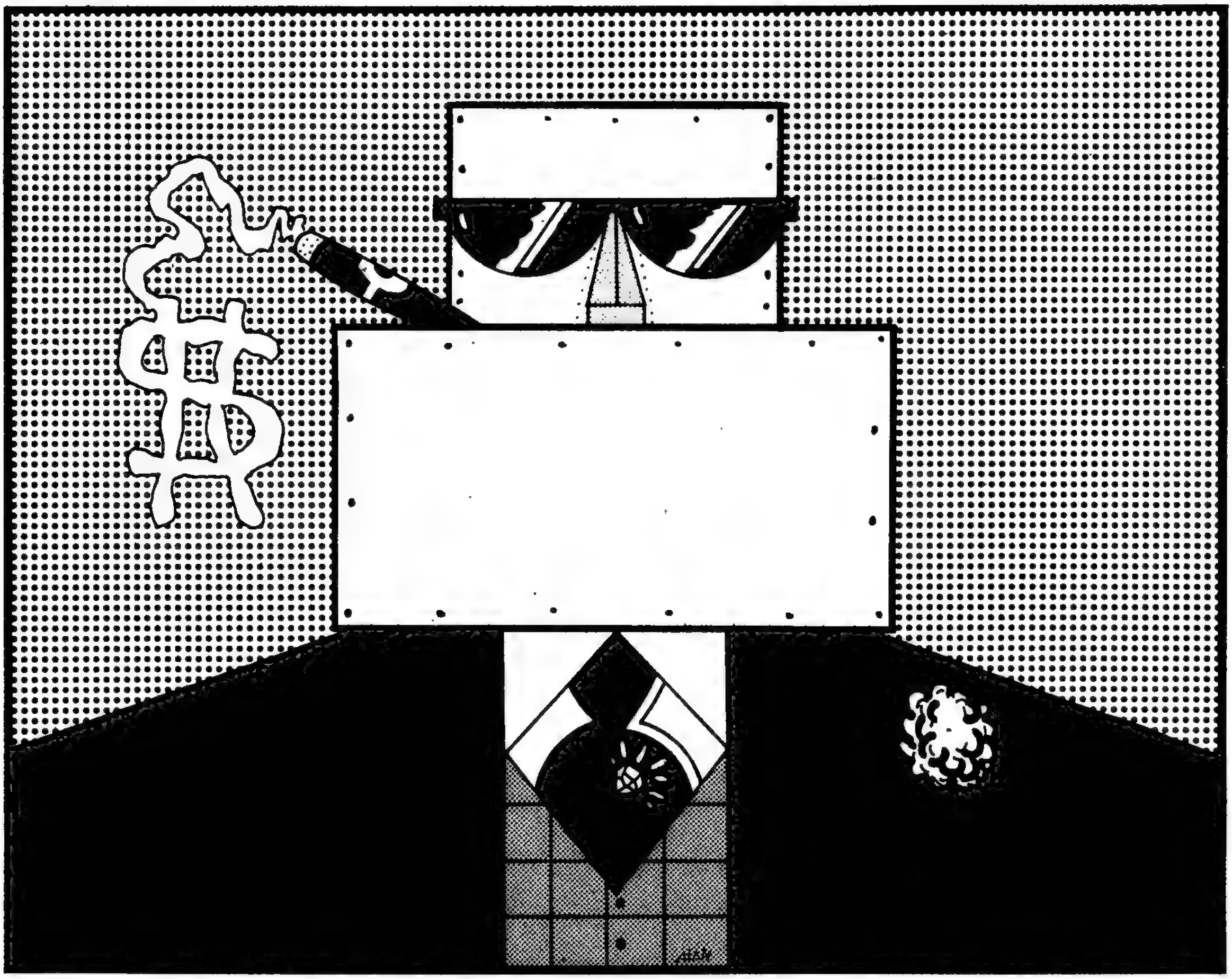
But I digress. The fact is that Cerebus is right now involved in a deadly game of international intrigue and backstabbing and nastiness, or was the last time I checked, and while I like it and follow the story with tremendous interest, I think you'd lose out on the quality of your mag if every story that you did was like that. So in future, try throwing in the occasional run-in-and-kill-the-bad-guys story like issue # 1, or a story within a sequence, like issue # 16. In the meantime, keep up the long involved stories; the're good in their way.

But if I could, I'd like to request a few things. One, are you left-handed? Please tell me. And if you're not, why did you have one right-handed fighter in the entire saga? That's not something a right-hander does for no reason at all.

Two, you said something, I believe, about bringing back

(continued on inside back cover)

At GLENWOOD, you deal with people. Not robots...



GLENWOOD distributors offers fast, personal service for all of your magazine, comix, & paperback needs. We have accurate bookkeeping, direct shipping, & discounts up to 55%! Without drop ship minimums OR minimum orders! GLENWOOD. It computes!

GLENWOOD
DISTRIBUTORS INC.
124 Vandalia
Collinsville, IL. 62234
618-345-1027

BEST BOOKS, BEST SERVICE!

For the past three years Styx International has been building a reputation for efficient service. Thanks to our **fast weekly deliveries, computer-assisted invoicing** and **flexible reordering policies**, 70% of Canada's major comic shops now get their stocks from Styx.

Canadian Dealers: Get discounts of 40% and more on non-Marvel items plus starting discounts of 45% on all Marvel items (including magazines, books, etc.). Discounts vary slightly for U.S. customers. Overseas dealers, clubs and organizations are also welcomed.

Interested? Call us for more details or better yet send $1.00 for our latest set of order forms and information sheets.

Choose from: DC, MARVEL, ARCHIE, CHARLTON, WARREN, STARLOG, HEAVY METAL, PACIFIC, FANTACO, SQ PRODUCTIONS, COCHRAN, ASTRAL, KITCHEN SINK, CINEFANTASTIQUE, ECLIPSE, CEREBUS and ELFQUEST. Also major fanzines such as THE COMICS JOURNAL, AMAZING HEROES, COMICS NEWSLINE, CINEFEX and a host of portfolios, books and other stuff, all at dealer discounts! We also maintain backstocks of issues to allow reorders for any titles you may need.

STYX INTERNATIONAL

P.O. Box 3791, Station B Winnipeg, Manitoba
Canada R2W 3R6 (204) 586-7920

ACROSS CANADA AND AROUND THE WORLD

President Weisshaupt. Please do. I like the man, and what's more I think it would serve Astoria right if the Moon Roach went patriotic on everyone again. And while on the subject of Weisshaupt, how much do you know of Pushkin? Well, do I win the prise for identifying your most obscure parody, or is it just coincidence and do you not know what the Hell I'm jabbering about? Only time will tell. All other considerations aside, President Weisshaupt is on the books as being one of the only people who helped Cerebus out of a jam when he didn't have to, and he should have some reward for that, shouldn't he?

Next bit of business. In Swords # 1, you said that while a cute and furry aardvark, Cerebus could also be a mean and lethal aardvark. Look again; he hasn't killed anyone since issue 16. So one of my requests is that the little grey beast go out and kill someone right away. And if that's not asking too much, see if this is. I know five requests is pushing it a little, but let me make my case for this last one. It's the person Cerebus should kill. This may sound very blood-thirsty, but the fact is, there is one person in your ancient world who deserves death at the hands of the Mighty Aardvark. Who, you ask? We were just talking of him. None other than K'cor, the Lord of Imesh. When I first saw him, I thought he was just some one who had cheated Cerebus out of his fortune and tried to kill him. But, despicable as this is, it's nothing compared to the fact that K'cor also demolished Cerebus' home town, as I later found was the case. You really shouldn't let him get off scot free for that.

So that's my fifth and final request for the month. That about wraps it up, but in as spirit of fairness I'd like to leave you with something since I've asked for so much. You know how other comics have slogans to inspire them, such as "Keep 'em flying" or "Long live the Legion!"? Not many of them, but some do. Well, though I will probably receive a letter bomb for this I think Cerebus should join this worthwhile trend, so

Pay it again, Sim.

Tom Lorimer
somewhere in the maritimes

Imesh was not Cerebus' home town, it was the city of his youth. He was brought there from the countryside around the age of nine by his father who . . . . would you all mind sitting back a bit I can't . . . . I say . . . . I can't breathe.

With all due apologies to the "homicide as humour" group, ther is not a whole lot of death coming. Sorry about that, ghouls.

P. S. from Deni -- no, Dave is not left-handed. You are the first to notice Cerebus is the only right-handed swordsman, though.

Illustration used to promote the Silver Snail Autograph Session with Dave Sim and Gene Day, December 5, 1981.

Shang Chi © 1982 Marvel Comics Group
Cerebus © 1982 Dave Sim

Bud Plant, Inc.

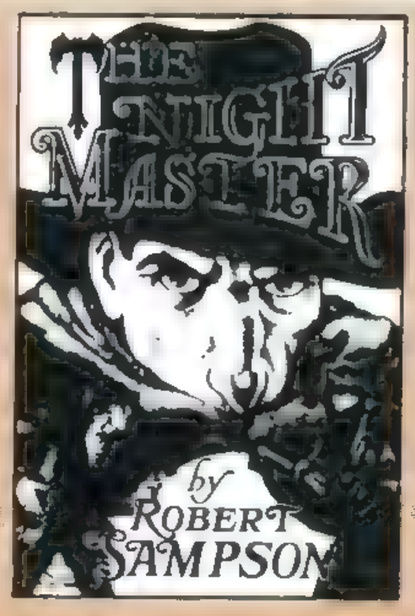
...featuring these artists:

John Byrne! Richard Corben! John Bolton!
Jack Kirby! Robert Crumb!
Wendy Pini!

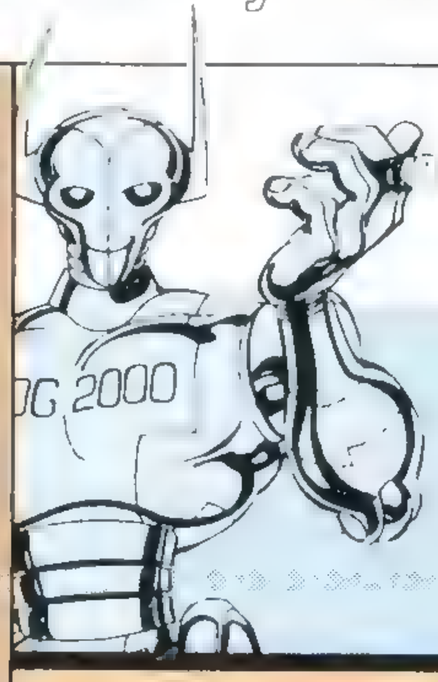
CALL TOLL FREE

MasterCard VISA

Richard Corben:
Flights Into Fantasy
A lavish hardcover with over 120 pages *in full color*. Corben's entire career is traced here, with everything from complete & rare early fan stories to his latest unpublished paintings! See his animation work, his sculptures, his many techniques. A truely **deluxe** volume printed in a limited edition. **$21.95**



The Shadow: Nightmaster!
A complete history and illustrated look at The Shadow of the pulps. The author looks at over 300 Shadow adventures and the real-life events of the 1930s & 1940s that inspired these masterpieces of crime and adventure. A **deluxe** hardcover. **$14.95**



ROG 2000 by John Byrne
Byrne's great robot hero created before his move to Marvel! 28 pages of adventures plus new work and a completely new, wraparound color cover! From the classic 1974 **E-Man** series. **$2.95**

Bullseye #4 with John Byrne
We've uncovered a stash of this fine magazine. Includes E-Man by Joe Staton, Frank Thorne, a Staton E-Man cover, and "Time Slip," a 10-pager by John Byrne! **$2.00**

Elfquest in Deadspawn #4!
A portfolio of huge color plates, all folded into a deluxe *box!* A new experiment in art & story. And who is contributing *all new* work? Richard & Wendy Pini, Trina, Bob Folio, Rudy Nebres, Ron Wilbur, Rick Geary, and many others. All for just: **$7.95**

Fun Comics #3
Simon & Kirby tribute! Two great classics, **Bullseye** and **Captain 3-D**. Plus classic splash pages, **Capt. Paragon**, the origin of **The Phantom Lady**, and more art by Pat Broderick, Jerry Ordway, and Bill Black. **$3.50**

Thomas Canty
Fields of Sleep Portfolio
Warriors & beautiful women are lost in a hidden valley in Asia...a valley whose time-lost inhabitants inhale a narcotic flower to produce a strange ecstasy while destroying the power of speech. Canty provides six exquisitely detailed plates, printed on delicate, textured papers. All encased in the nicest rag-cut slipcase we've seen. Signed & numbered from only 1500 sets. *Scarce.* **$15.00**

F.O.O.G.
(Friends of Ol' Gerber) Portfolio
New or previously unpublished plates by the masters of comic art! Berni Wrightson's Capt. Stern • Jeff Jones • Barry Windsor-Smith Medusa • Gene Colan & Dave Sim Stewart the Rat • Michael Kaluta • Charles Vess • Marshall Rogers The Foozle • Frank Thorne's Ghita • Dave Sim's Cerebus • Wendy Pini & Dave Sim: A special Elf and Frost Giant illustration! 11 x 14 **$7.00**

Destroyer Duck #1
Jack Kirby and Alfredo Alcala combine talents to produce a pulse-pounder! It's like the good old days of Kirby once again, with wild pages of battles and chaos as Destroyer Duck takes on the corporations! **$1.50**

Robert Crumb Sketchbook #2
If you've enjoyed **Zap Comics, Fritz the Cat, Mr. Natural**, and the underground works of R. Crumb, you'll be glad to hear there are now two thick sketchbooks of his work available. Yes, here is a completely new book collecting his pre-Zap work from '66 and '67 *and* it includes 20 pages in *full color*. Over 360 pages! Hardcover! **$25.00**
Still available: **Sketchbook #1 $30.00**

Heroes of the Blues Cards
36 full color cards in a beautiful little box. From Barbeque Bob to The Memphis Jug Band! **$6.95**

NEW! Early Jazz Greats Cards
A new set of color cards! **$6.95**

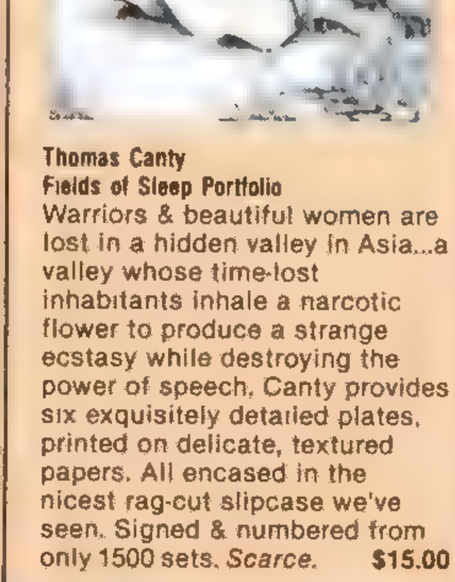
A Short History of American Poster
This is widely acclaimed as one of Crumb's finest works. A full color, 12-panel look at two centuries of America's changes. You'll love it, trust me! 18x24
Postpaid: **$5.00**

The 1982 Comic Book Priceguide
600 pages, 1200 rare comic covers, tens of thousands of comics priced & described... truely the comic fan's **bible!** There are also great articles, including a cover by **Mad's** Norman Mingo and an intimate look at this famous EC comic book! **$9.95**

The 1980 Comic Book Priceguide
Still available! The guide which featured Timely comics, the 1940s forerunner of Marvel Comics. Great selection of rare Golden Age photos in full color! **Now half price** **$4.95**

John Bolton's
Fantasy World of Chess
Marvel's own John Bolton provides over 20 extraordinary single and double page illustrations for this book on how to play chess. He creates armed warriors, kings, queens, hairy beasts, and giant steeds... all clashing in perpetual battles of sword & sorcery. **Satisfaction Guaranteed!** If you like Bolton, you'll love this *hardcover*. If not, return it for full credit! Regularly $5.95 **Now: $4.95**

Heroes, Heavies & Heroines Portfolio
Byrne Golden Perez Zeck Rogers McLeod Black Kaluta Kane Kirby Ordway Sienkiewicz Rogers... all the artists contribute plates featuring their favorite comics. The Sienkiewicz plate is in full color while most others are two-color. **Great package!** (Wolverine is © 1982 Marvel Comics Group.) **$6.00**



The Pretty Girl Portfolio
16 plates & 12 artists! Byrne, Pat Broderick, Wallace Wood, Steve Leialoha, Vosburg, McLeod, Zeck & more! All drawing their favorite comic heroines! **$3.50**

If you need more space, use an additional sheet. Please print clearly

Master Card & Visa customers:
Call in your order TOLL FREE!
Phone 800-824-6532.
9am–5pm Mon–Fri, PST
Sorry, no CODs
Minimum order $10
(Toll-free not available in CA AK or HI call 916 273 9588.)

Order Total $ _____
Postage $ $1.50
Calif. residents add 6% sales tax $ _____
Total $ _____

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____

BUD PLANT, INC.
P.O. Box 1886C8 Grass Valley, California 95945

CEREBUS ARCHIVE

"First letter from long-time Cerebus t-shirt vendor Bob Chapman under his GRAPHITTI DESIGNS imprint."

- Dave Sim

Graphitti DESIGNS

Deni Sim
Aardvark-Vanaheim, Inc.
Box 1674 Station 'C'
Kitchener, Ontario
N2G 4R2

January 28, 1983

Deni,

Was very pleased to hear from you the other day. First let me introduce and explain myself to you. My name is Bob Chapman and own both EAGLE ENTERPRISES and GRAPHITTI DESIGNS. I talked to you briefly about my Graphitti t-shirts at the Hi Dee Ho bookstore in Long Beach, California when you both were on your tour and I believe your letter was in response to a letter I wrote you as Eagle Enterprises sometime in early 1982. Are you confused yet?

Well what this means is I am very flexiable as to the arrangements you'd like to make as far as shirts.

As EAGLE ENTERPRISES (a slik-screening company) I can print the shirts for you, deliver them to you. An then its your job to sell them. With the quantity (1500) your talking about and the quality of the shirt enclosed (Stedman Hi-Cru), you'd be looking at $3.75 each (for the women's french-T $4.75 each).

As GRAPHITTI DESIGNS (a company marketing licensed design t-shirts) I can have the shirts printed, package them, market them (ads, wholesale to distributors, convention sales, etc.) and in return give you a royalty (which can be negotiated) using this process I want you to have as much control over the product as you'd like, and as Graphitti would work as closely as needed.

$3 shirt/up 1,000
50¢/sh / 1001 - 3000
45¢ / 3000 - ↑

SCREENPRINTED SHIRTS 515 W. Valencia Dr. Unit E Fullerton California 92632 714 738 5480

"First letter from long-time Cerebus t-shirt vendor Bob Chapman under his GRAPHITTI DESIGNS imprint."

- Dave Sim

I hope you've been able to wade through the above explaination. I would like to do a CEREBUS shirt very much and with the options explained above there are a number of different ways it can be done. Something I'm sure can be worked out. Let's keep in touch.

Sincerely,

R. Chapman

Bob Chapman

p. s. In your next correspondence if you include your phone number and a good time to call, I can contact you that way.

dc
enclosure

"Earlier letter from Bob "Robert W." Chapman under his EAGLE ENTERPRISES CALIFORNIA imprint."

- Dave Sim

Eagle Enterprises California ®

515 W. Valencia Drive • Unit E • Fullerton, California 92632 • (714) 738-4242

May 6, 1982

Dave & Deni Sim
221 Queen St., S. Suite #1401
Kitchener, Ontario, Canada N2G 1W5

Dear Deni and Dave,

Enclosed you'll find a couple of examples of prior T-shirts I've done. These will give you an example of the quality of the product, shirt and screen printing.

Allow me to introduce myself, I'm Bob Chapman and Eagle Enterprises is a screen printing company which I own and operate. I'm presently in the process of producing a series of screen printed shirts with designs by different comic artist. The shirts will be sold through mail-order ads, at comic conventions, and by comic art dealers and shops. The initial release date is set for this summer. They will be a top quality product and fairly priced.

What I'm leading up to is asking if you'd be interested in participating in this project with either an original or a previously published design. Even though there has been a couple of previous CEREBUS T-shirts, I believe another one would be graciously excepted by both fan and myself. I'm prepared to pay royalties for the use of the designs and an advance payment against royalties can be expected.

I'd like to talk to you at length about what I've very briefly outlined above. I believe that the potential is unlimited and that it's something that could be enjoyable to both fan and artist. If I've piqued your interest at all, please feel free to write or call collect so we can discuss these ideas at length.

Thank you for your time,

Robert W. Chapman

Robert W. Chapman

Business (714) 738-4242
Home (714) 970-5930

dc

"Deni's response to the previous 3 pages."

- Dave Sim

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM, INC.

January 18, 1983

515 W. Valencia Drive, Unit E,
Fullerton, CA., 92632

Dear Robert:

I ran across your letter while going through a file the other day.

Briefly, we are currently looking for someone who can handle the Cerebus T-shirts on a larger-scale basis. My main interest is to be able to provide the distributors with a good product at a fair price, compatable with the Elfquest T-shirts.

Figure on a quantity of 1500 shirts, mixed S,M,L, mens and womes sizes. We will supply artwork, and would like it printed black on a light blue T-shirt. We will be using the Cerebus for Dictator design to test the market with.

My apologies for leaving things so long. We were not sure when you first approached us if we even were interested in T-shirts.

I'll be looking forward to hearing back from you on this.

Sincerely,

Deni Sim,
Publisher, Aardvark-Vanaheim Inc.
:km

BOX 1674 STATION 'C' KITCHENER ONTARIO N2G 4R2

"Amazing day when we got this in. Yes, we definitely wanted to buy a script from Jerry Siegel. His writing wasn't very good at that point, but the entire comics industry had been built on his and Joe Shuster's creation, SUPERMAN. The least any of us could do was to buy the occasional script from him and bring it to market. I know Dean Mullaney at Eclipse thought the same way when he purchased THE STARLING. There was an even greater onus on me, since I was also an artist and could draw any script he sent. It's one of my great regrets that I spent most of 1983, outside of writing and drawing CEREBUS, getting high and – after Deni and I separated in August – chasing skirt. RICKY ROBOT would never have been a hit book, but I owed it to Jerry Siegel to put the most amazing surface veneer on his work that I could and I chose not to do it."

- Dave Sim

11928 Darlington Ave., Apt. 102
Los Angeles, CA 90049
February 6, 1983

Ms. Deni Sim, Publisher
AARDVARK-VANAHEIM
Box 1674 Station C
Kitchener
Ontario, CANADA N2G 4R2

Dear Ms. Sim:

I am the writer who co-originated SUPERMAN. Currently, I am doing the horror-fantasy comic book series THE STARLING for Eclipse Enterprises; it begins its run as the back-up feature in DESTROYER DUCK #2, which goes on sale soon.

I have written some additional projects, which can be offered as comic books or graphic novels (I would own the properties):

REDD DEATH AND LIFE-QUEEN; ZONGOLLA THE ULTROID; DOOMSDAY-Y-Y KOMICS (No. 1); SPACE ROCK KID; RICKY ROBOT.

Kindly advise if you would like to consider any or all of these.

Sincerely,

Jerry Siegel

Jerry Siegel

"Bob Chapman's response to the page 2 pages before."

- Dave Sim

Graphitti Designs

Deni Sim
Aardvark-Vanaheim, Inc.
Box 1674 Station 'C'
Kitchener, Ontario N2G 4R2

February 16, 1983

Dear Deni:

It was a pleasant surprise to hear from you the other day. Per our conversation, enclosed is a tentative contract in reguards to a CEREBUS T shirt.

If the contract is in agreement to you, the information I need in return would be:

1.. The design (a good stat would be perfect.) I'd also need the approximate size you'd like to see it presented on the shirt.

2. The color of the shirt and the ink color you'd like used.

3. One copy of the signed contract.

Upon reciept of the artwork and contract you will be sent the $500.00 advance (if this amount is not to your liking it can be modified with no problem.) and soon after that a printed shirt for you to proof.

If there are any problems or questions with the contract and such, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

R. Chapman

Bob Chapman

SCREENPRINTED SHIRTS 515 W. Valencia Dr. Unit E Fullerton California 92632 714 738 5480

"Deni's response to the page 2 pages before."

- Dave Sim

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM, INC.

March 8, 1983

515 W. Valencia Dr., Unit E,
Fullerton, Ca., 92632

Dear Bob:

It looks like everything is ready to go. Enclosed is your copy of the contract for the CEREBUS t-shirt, and the artwork for it. I hope that everything goes smoothly.

If you want to send me an ad that can go down a column in the letters page, I'd be happy to put it in free the first time. After that we can figure out a reasonable price for any future ads. After all, if sales go up, so does our royalties.

I hope that this will be the begining of a long, and mutually beneficial relationship.

Sincerely,

Deni Sim

Publisher, Aardvark-Vanaheim, Inc.

Encl.

DS:km

BOX 1674 STATION 'C' KITCHENER ONTARIO N2G 4R2

"Letter from Will Shetterly re: Minicon 19."

- Dave Sim

21 February 1983

2435 1st Av. S. #3
Mpls, MN 55404
(612) 872-4926

Dave and Deni Sim
Aardvark-Vanaheim Inc.
P.O. Box 1674, Station "C"
Kitchener, Ont. N2G 4R2

Dear Deni and Dave,

This is just a nudge to make Dave's plane reservation soon. And to tell you that everyone's delighted with the t-shirt design. And to let you know that unless the programming committee slips something by me, the schedule shouldn't be too hectic: a general "meet the pros" sometime Friday night, a one-hour panel with a few local comix types at 1 p.m. Saturday, and a position of honor at a table after 2 p.m. where people can praise and pester Dave so long as he can endure it (we think an hour should take care of the avid fans). And that's all.

Best,

Will

Will Shetterly

"MINICON 19 flier."

- Dave Sim

The Minneapolis in '73 Party is still in exile in St. Paul—but what a party!

MINICON 19

Backward Into the Future

April 1—3, 1983

Radisson St. Paul Hotel
11 East Kellogg
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

ProGoH: **Larry Niven**

FanGoHs:
Pamela Dean and
David Dyer-Bennett

(and other guests, to be announced)

Programming!
Parties!
Pool!
Parties!
Omnimax theatre movie!
Parties!

Films!
Parties!
Music!
Video Games!
Parties!
Hucksters!
Art show!
Oh—and Parties!

Registration rates to be announced.

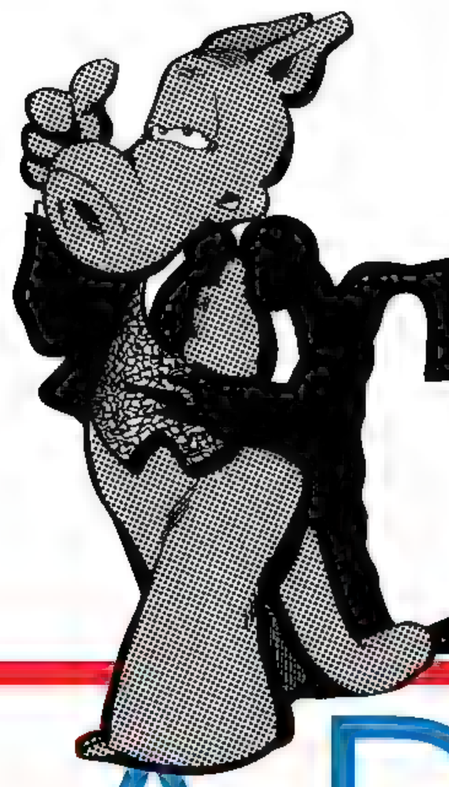
Write to: MINICON, P.O. Box 2128, Loop Station, Minneapolis, MN 55402

We're updating our mailing list; please send corrections.

"Cerebus t-shirt design to Minicon 19."

- Dave Sim

MINICON

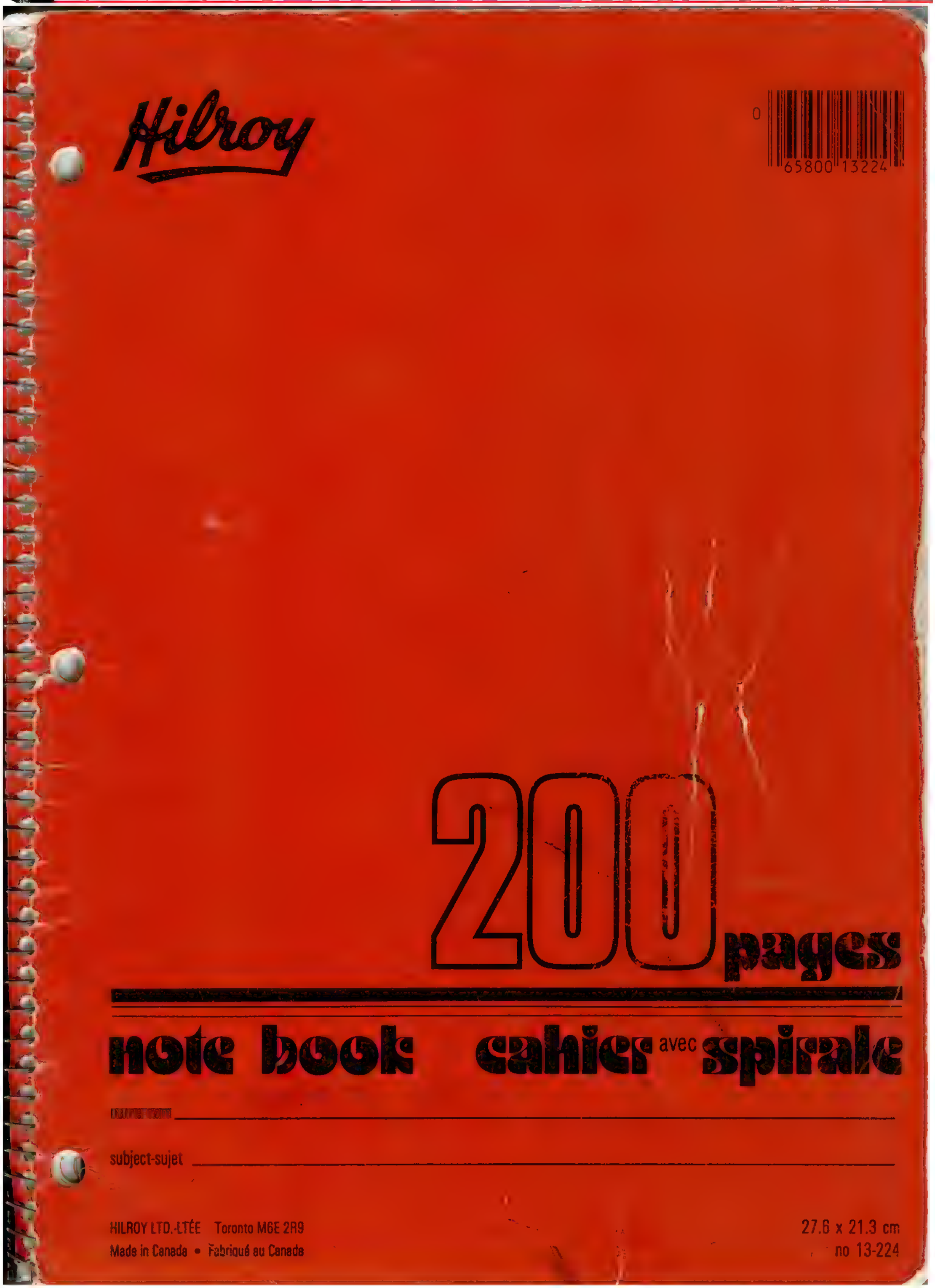


CEREBUS

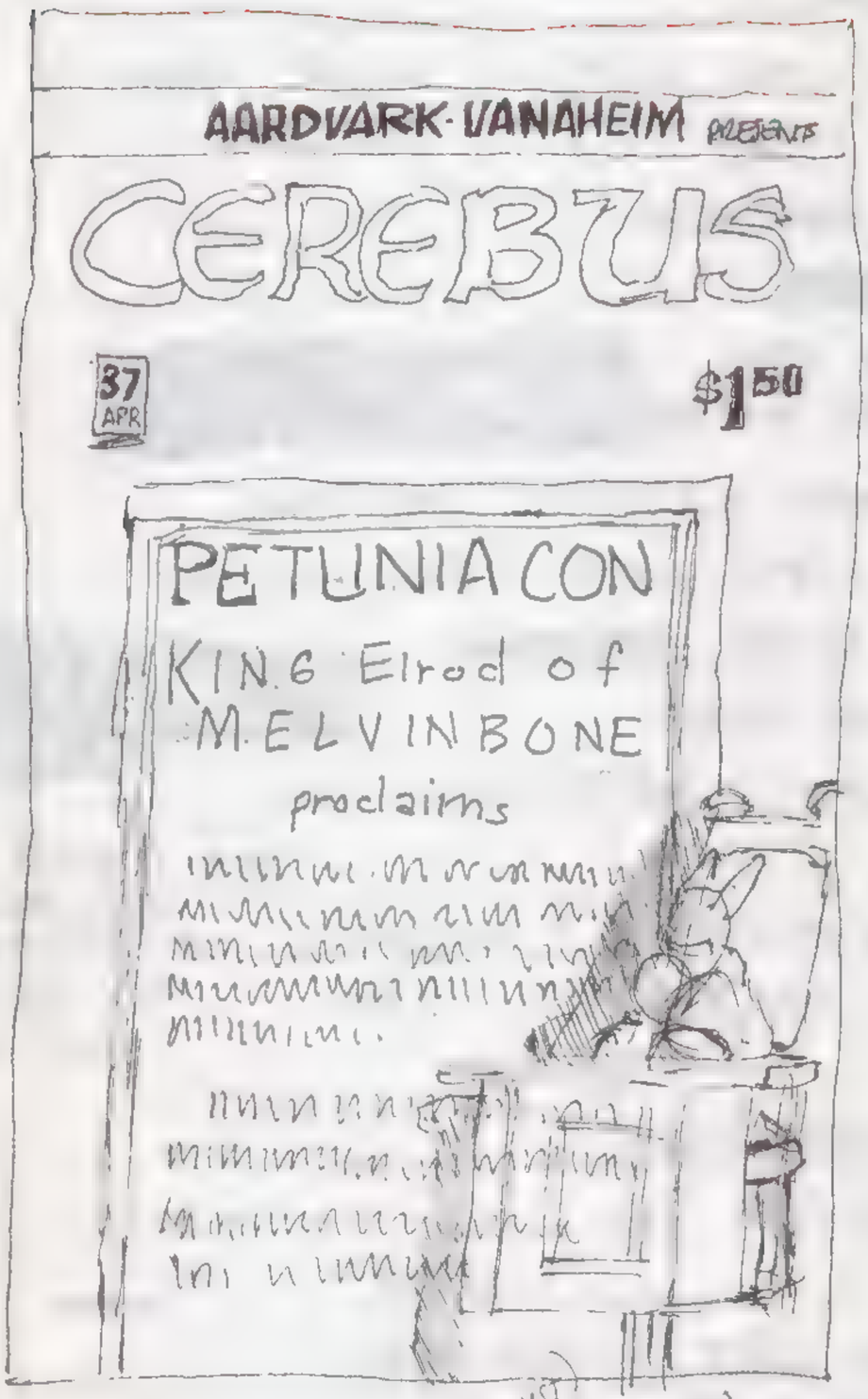
ARCHIVE

NOTEBOOKS

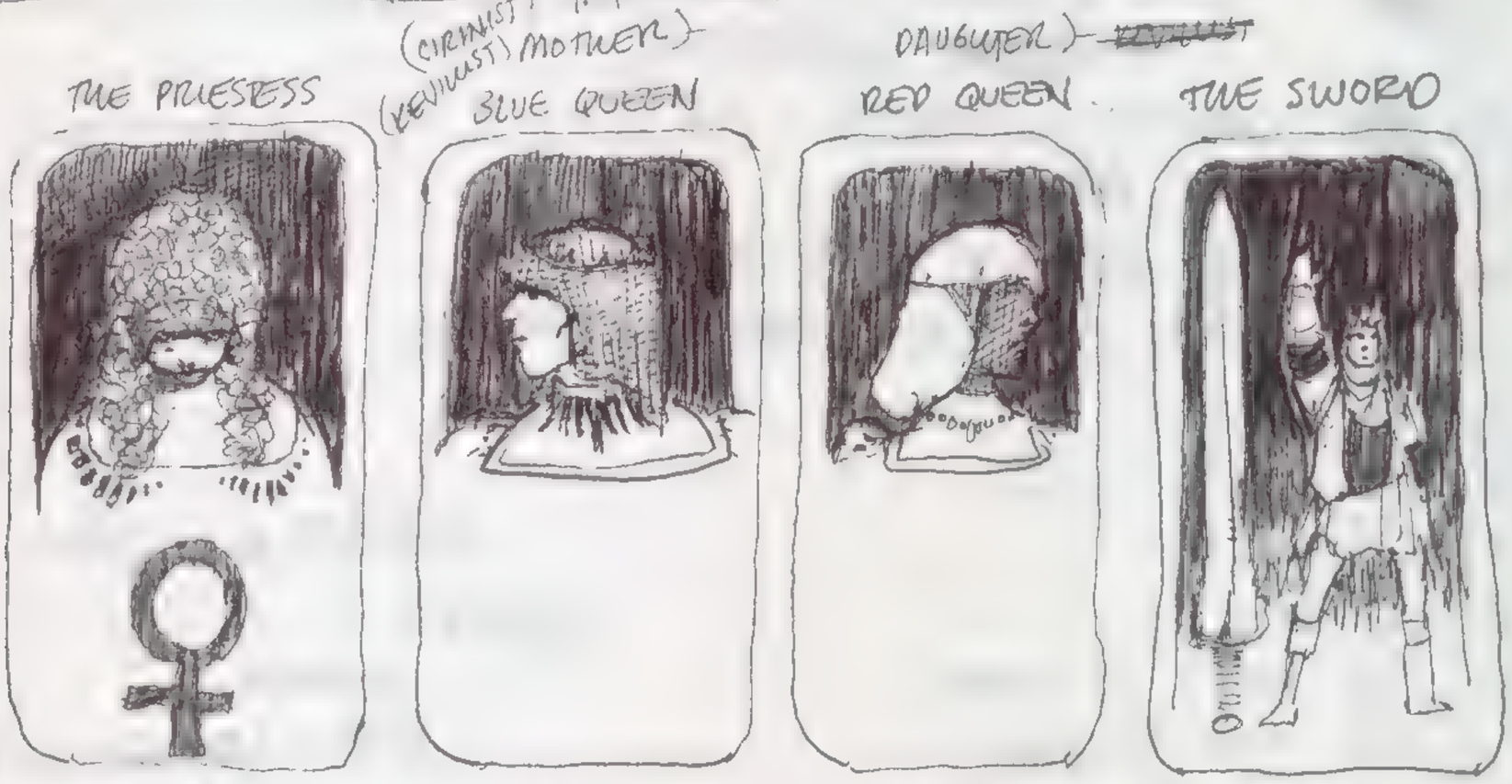
"Albatross Too"



I began using notebooks to plot CEREBUS beginning with issue 20. I called the notebook my "albatross" since it was always with me, a constant reminder of work I had to do. Plotting for HIGH SOCIETY began on page 135 of the 200-page "Albatross One" (although much plotting of the various political factions takes place on the earlier pages and on – now long gone – scraps of paper).



Cerebus #37 (April 1982)
"PetuniaCon Day One."



HSANB 1/37 - First cover design for issue No.37. Designs for the PRIESTESS card game which never got past the illustration stage. The idea was that it was a Cirinist form of fortune-telling based on Diamondback but with one of each face card eliminated. No magician, one priestess, two queens (Red Queen and Blue King) three "kings" (diminished to kingly accoutrements like "The Sword" "The Scepter" and "Gold") and so on.

~~DIAMONDBACK~~

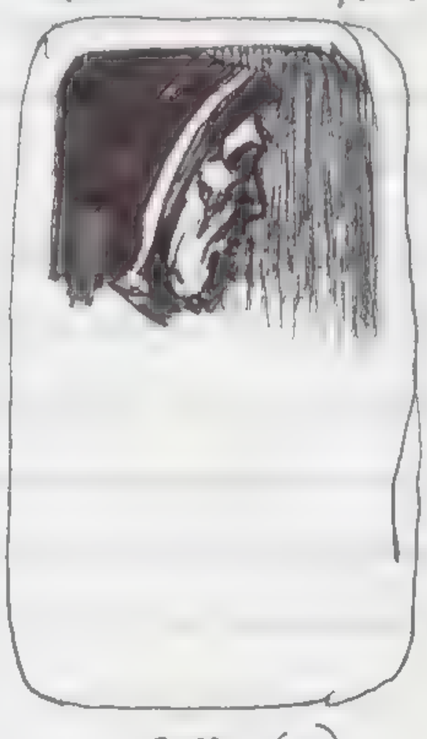
PRIESTESS - BLUE QUEEN
PRIESTESS - RED QUEEN
BLUE QUEEN - RED QUEEN
PRIESTESS - SWORD — PRIESTESS - GOLD
BLUE QUEEN - SWORD — BLUE QUEEN GOLD
RED QUEEN - SWORD — RED QUEEN - SWORD
RED QUEEN - SCEPTER — SCEPTER - GOLD
BLUE QUEEN SCEPTER
PRIESTESS - SCEPTER
THE SCEPTER - SWORD

M
P P
BQR RQ RQ
SWORD ~~GOLD~~ SCEPTER R.KING
BLUE PRIEST RP RP RP RED PRIEST

PRIESTESS
BLUE QUEEN RED QUEEN
THE SWORD GOLD THE SCEPTER
ASCENDING PRIEST DESCENDING PRIEST D.P. D.P

BLUE ~~ASCENDING~~ PRIEST
RED ~~DESCENDING~~ PRIEST.

THE SCEPTER
GOLD



RED
RED
BLUE
RED (3)

HSANB 2/37 - More card designs continuing on from HSANB 1/37. One of the reasons for abandoning the concept was that I wasn't going to have the room to develop it in HIGH SOCIETY that I had had with Diamondback. And if it wasn't in the book there was no good reason for people to buy it.

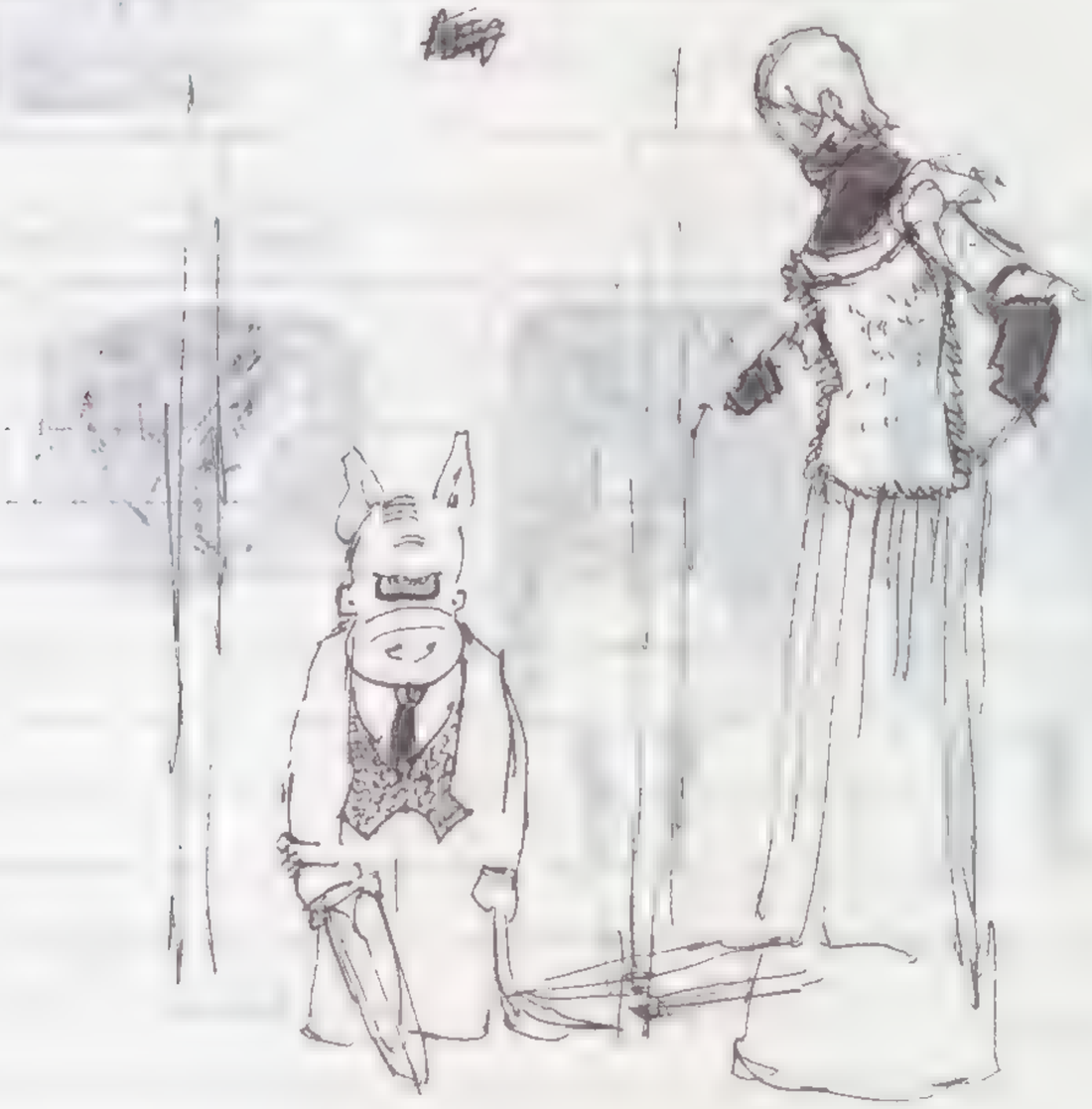
PRIESTESS - BLUE QUEEN
PRIESTESS - RED QUEEN
RED QUEEN - BLUE QUEEN
PRIESTESS - SWORD

CIRIN: I am a scepter...
nothing more.

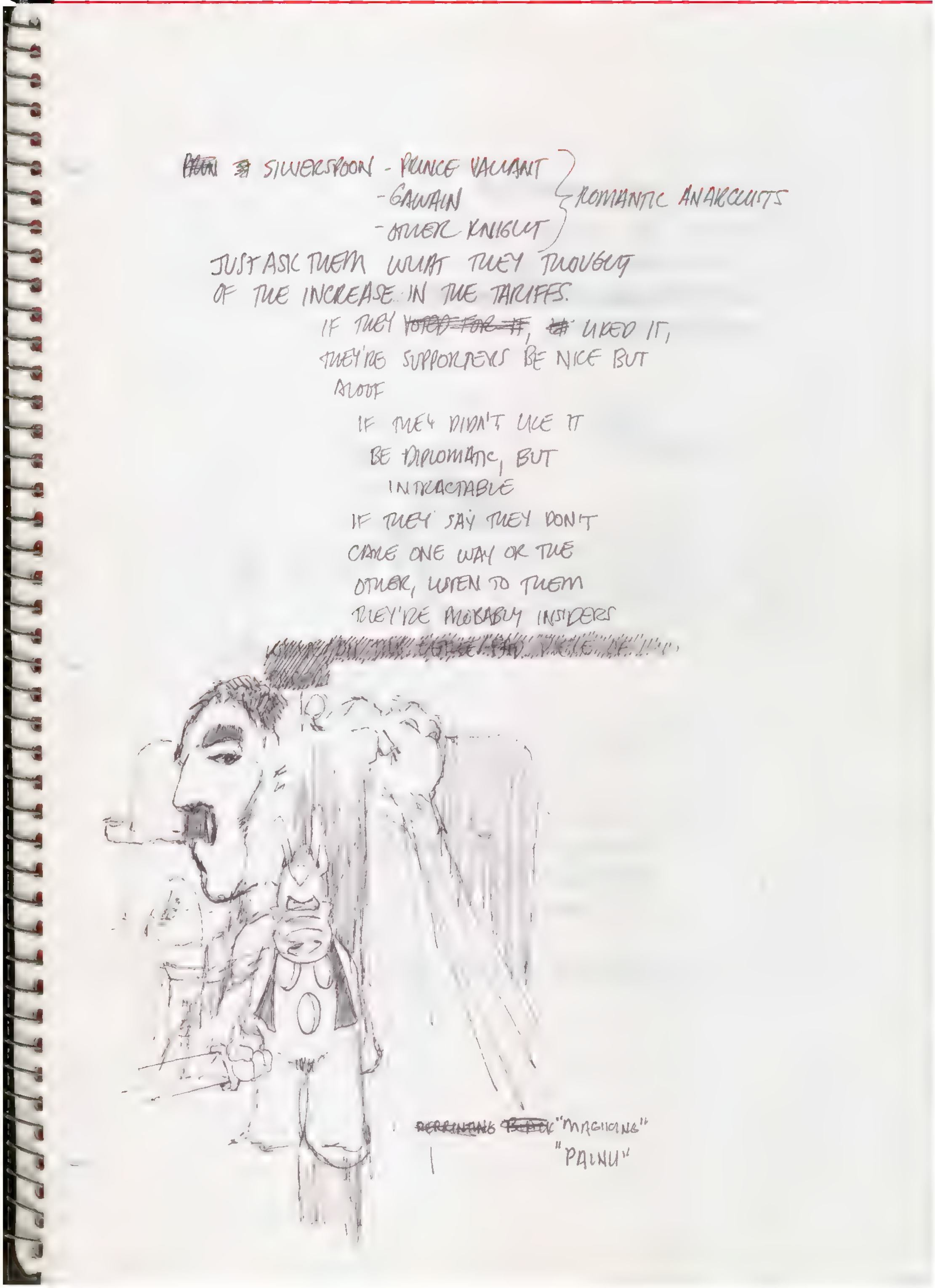
PRIESTESS™

IT'S SHOWTIME

#37 page one: Cerebus entering ground of Iodel. Casaphrase in the distance
#. page two - Athena



HSANB 3/37 - Design for the back of the PRIESTESS cards. Rough sketch of No.37 splash page.


SILVERSPOON - PRINCE VALIANT
- GALAHAD
- OTHER KNIGHT
ROMANTIC ANARCHISTS
JUST ASK THEM WHAT THEY THOUGHT OF THE INCREASE IN THE TARIFFS.
IF THEY LIKED IT, THEY'RE SUPPORTERS BE NICE BUT ALOOF
IF THEY DIDN'T LIKE IT BE DIPLOMATIC, BUT INTRACTABLE
IF THEY SAY THEY DON'T CARE ONE WAY OR THE OTHER, LISTEN TO THEM THEY'RE PROBABLY INSIDERS
"MAGICIANS"
"PAINU"

HSANB 4/37 - Originally I wanted to have Astoria "debrief" Cerebus on the way into Petuniacon:
ASTORIA: Just ask them what they [the representatives] thought of the increase in tariffs. If they liked it, they're supporters. Be nice, but aloof. If they didn't like it, be diplomatic, but intractable. If they say they don't care one way or the other, listen to them. They're probably insiders.

continued...

~~PLUM~~ SILVERSPOON - PRINCE VALIANT
- GALAHAD
- OTHER KNIGHT
} ROMANTIC ANARCHISTS

JUST ASK THEM WHAT THEY THOUGHT OF THE INCREASE IN THE TARIFFS.

IF THEY ~~VOTED FOR IT~~, ~~DID~~ LIKED IT, THEY'RE SUPPORTIVE BE NICE BUT ALOOF

IF THEY DIDN'T LIKE IT BE DIPLOMATIC, BUT INTRACTABLE

IF THEY SAY THEY DON'T CARE ONE WAY OR THE OTHER, LISTEN TO THEM THEY'RE PROBABLY INSIDERS

~~BERNSTEIN~~ "MAGICIANS"
"PAINU"

I opted for the "I haven't got time to tell you..." exchange instead. It was funnier and could be crammed into the side of two panels. I was running out of room.

First sketch of the cover of SWORDS OF CEREBUS volume four.

#37

(1) CEREBUS LEAVING GREENHOUSE

(2) TAP TAP Just a minute

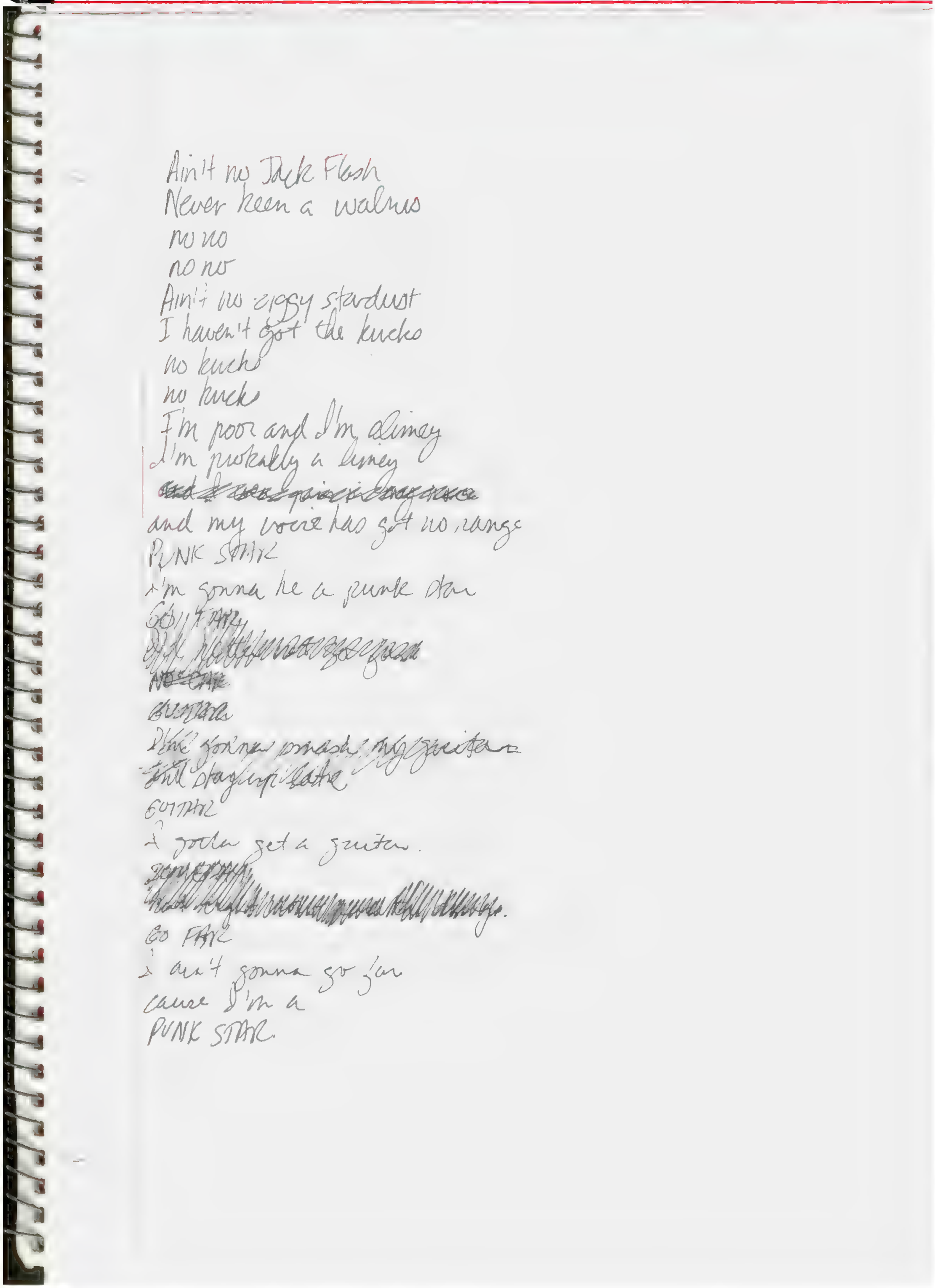
PETUNIACON DAY ONE

(3) ~~I WON'T BOTHER TO COUNT HOW MANY TIMES I~~
~~MANAGE TO TRIP YOU~~

#37 - You know that chap who's come to ask you a few questions? The Grand Inquisitor... the same

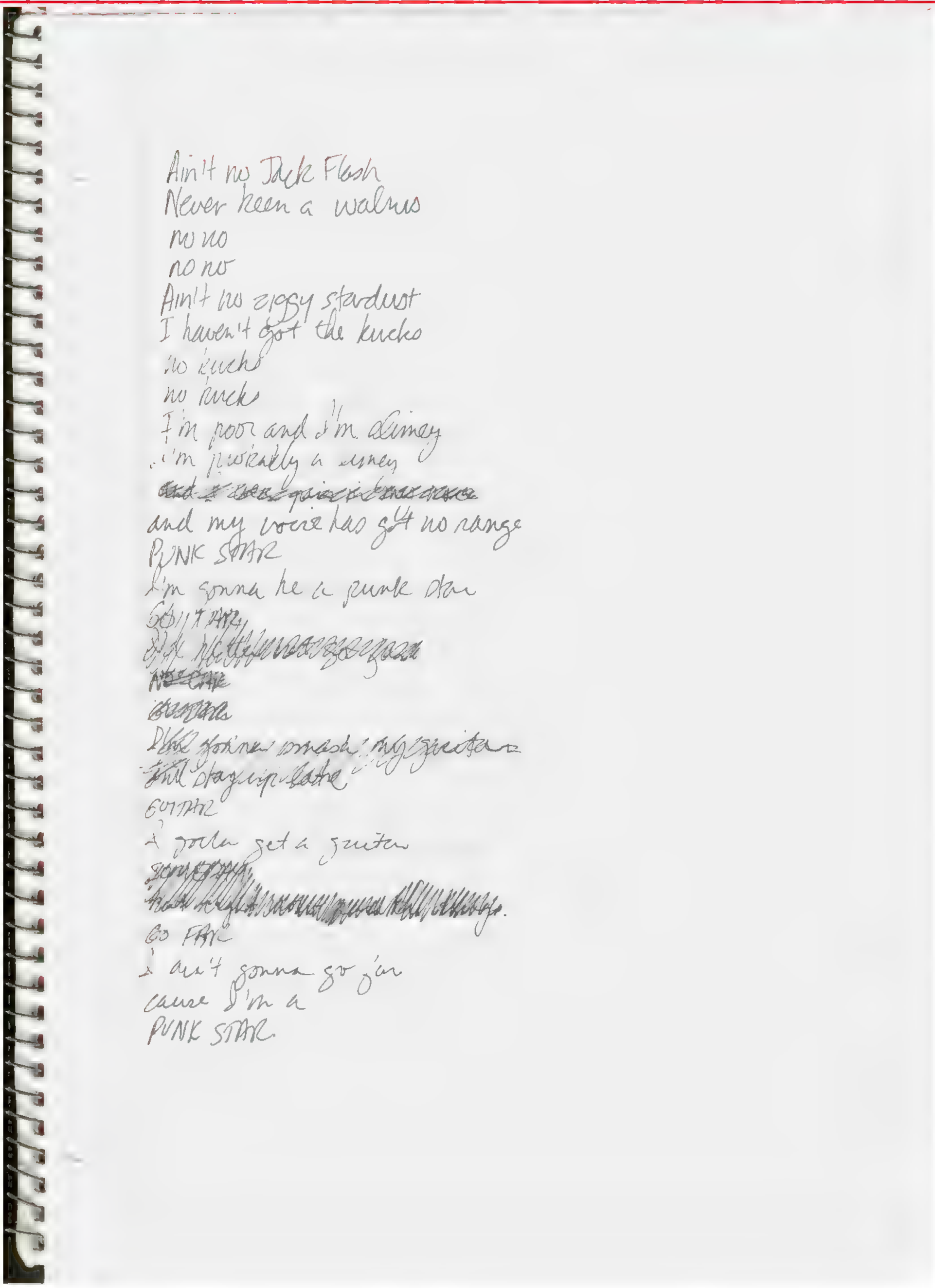
There are fire hydrants that are small

HSANB 5/37 - Cerebus leaving the greenhouse and walking back to the Regency. Decided to start with him at the door to the Suite. Same reason: I was running out of room.



HSANB 6/37 - Dan Graham, local gadabout (who later founded BLUES, BREWS & BARBECUES here in town, which he headed until there was a putsch by the Board of Directors, who have since usurped it in its entirety and renamed it the KITCHENER BLUES FESTIVAL) rented my old studio on the sixth floor for his music studio and decided we should work on some music together. I'd write the lyrics and he'd write the music.

continued...



He decided we would call ourselves HARD-HUNG HARRY & THE WHOREHEADS (after our mutual friend, Now & Then Books owner, Harry Kremer) and our first album would be called WHOLESALE WHOREHEAD. This is the only one I wrote in my notebook, PUNK STAR

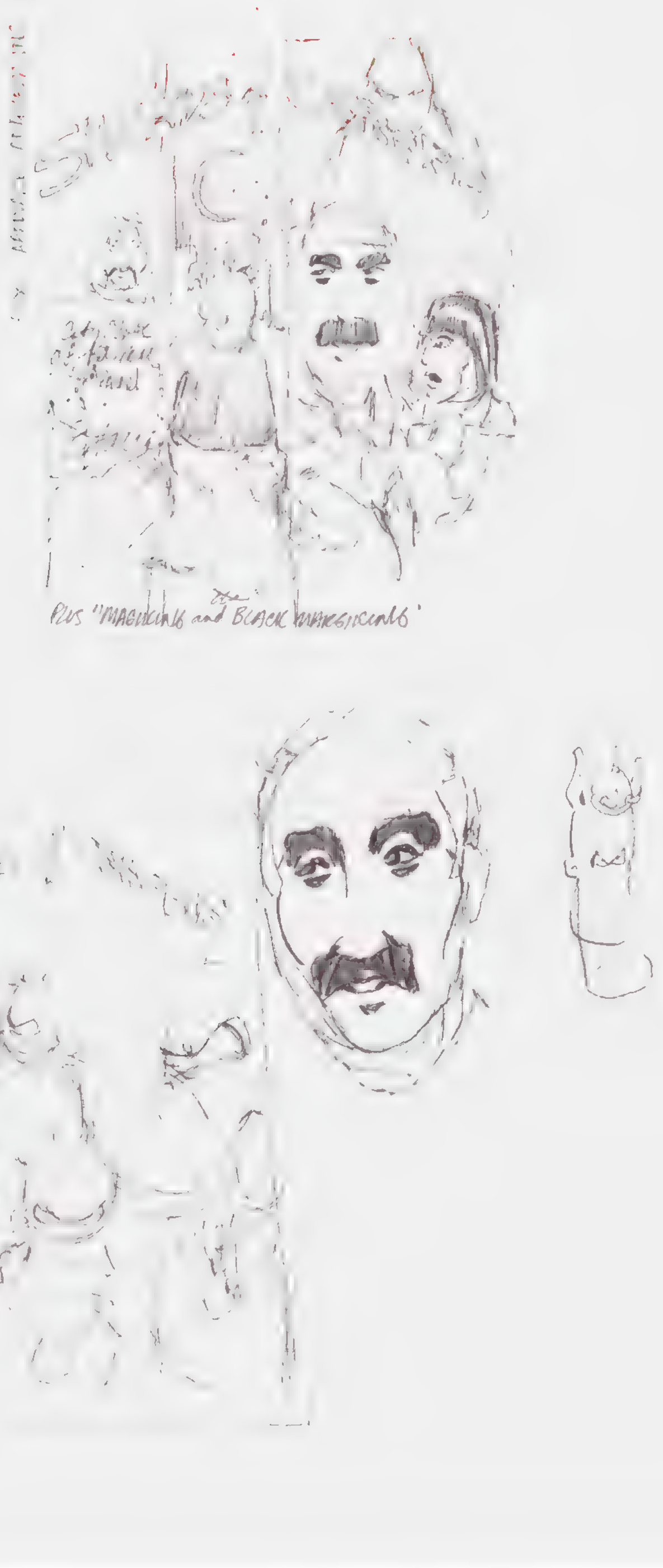
Ain't no Jack Flash
Never been a Walrus
No no
No no

Ain't no Ziggy Stardust
I haven't got the bucks
No bucks
No bucks

I'm poor and I'm slimy
I'm probably a Limey
and my voice has got no range

PUNK STAR
I'm gonna be a Punk Star
GUITAR
I gotta get a guitar
GO FAR
I ain't gonna go far
'cause I'm a
PUNK STAR

I wish I was making that up.



HSANB 7/37 - Sketches for the covers of SWORDS OF CEREBUS volume 4 and the new cover for SWORDS volume one.

introduction to "Diamondback"

I have said a great deal about Marshall Rogers already in Volume 3 of this series: already, but as a wise man once said "You can't have too much Marshall Rogers!" This is as true today as it was when Dean Mullaney said it a couple of years ago. I must confess here that I had not seen much of Marshall's work when I first met him - ~~[illegible]~~ - ~~[illegible]~~ I had a certain admiration for ~~[illegible]~~ the Batman ~~excerpts~~ strip he had been doing with Mike Gordon, and Mike Gordon was doing a feature for DC (Gotham being somewhat more prone to two Mondo Bizarro than most comic book characters) and his large in approach

"The Batman is Dead--Long Live the Batman" stands as one of those little beacons of real class in comics. ~~[illegible]~~ Remember that subtle story in ~~[illegible]~~ issue? About fortunetty [illegible]; ~~[illegible]~~ [illegible] up. The ~~[illegible]~~ artist [illegible] ~~[illegible]~~ [illegible] ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ New York scene or [illegible] ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ people keep telling you to ~~[illegible]~~ if you can't stand the pressure, get [illegible] the kosher" type chains.

My luck has been pretty good as far ~~[illegible]~~ people Marshall had said that he would like to do a Batman ~~[illegible]~~ with me, so when I was asked to do the Swords volumes, I decided to take him up on his offer.

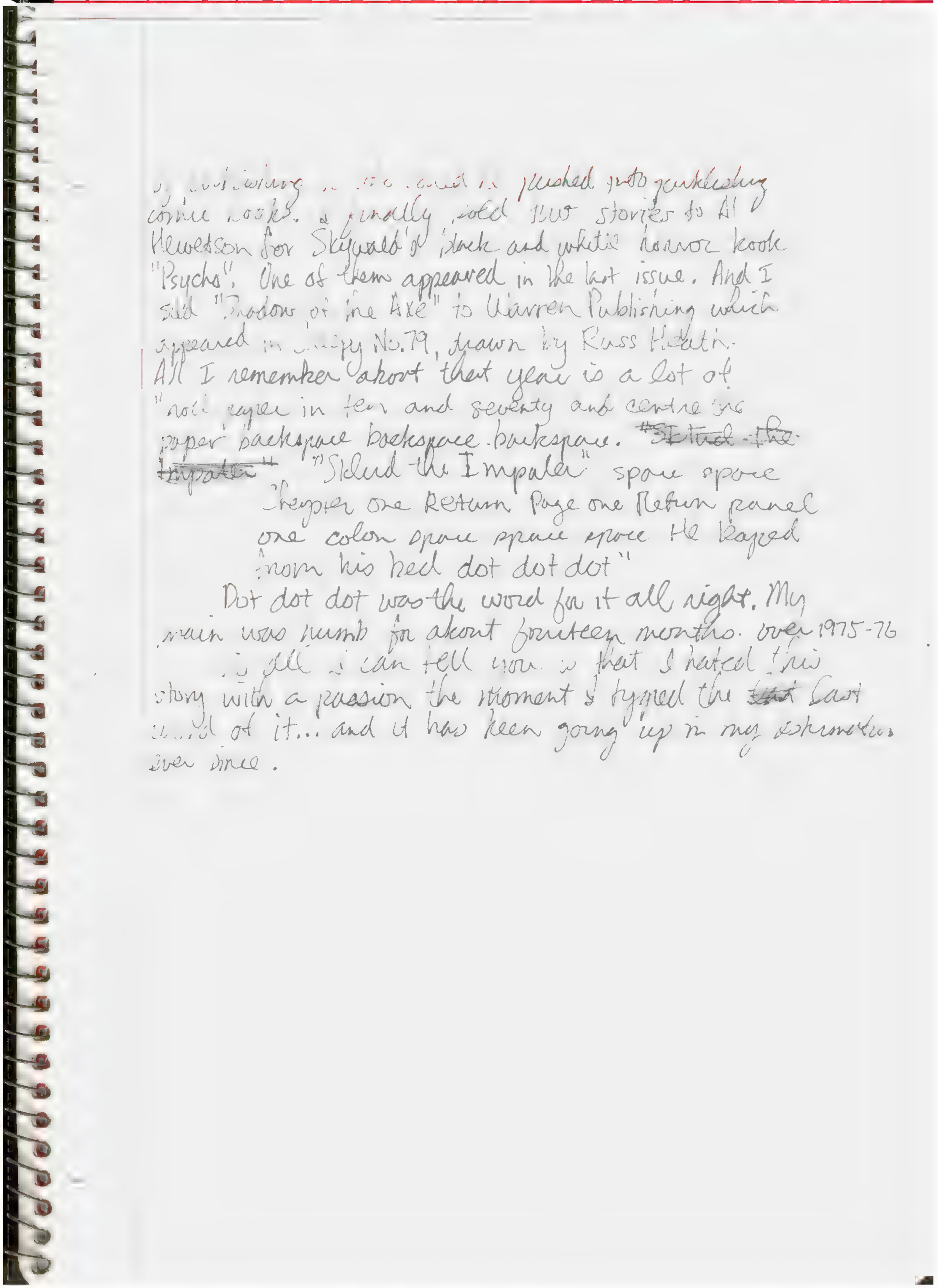
First I phoned his apartment and Tony Dispoto (a mutual friend) said he was at Continuity working on a commercial job and that he was gone one after midnight; I figured I would be

HSANB 8-10/37 - New introduction to "The Name of the Game is Diamondback" the SWORDS OF CEREBUS volume one jam story I did with Marshall Rogers.

I just sent Marshall the full script for the story
Bid (some - about -- months ago) I got back his layout
pages, six set to be lettered and inked. I came up
around with me for about two weeks while I finished up
work on issue #22. I finally finished the pages, taking
me about ~~five~~ ~~six~~ fifteen panels a day. And it is
short four days, two days of which were good, one day
(the first) which was bad and the day which was so-so.
I am quite happy with the "first-punch" page and the
"marked cards page". I figured that wasn't a bad average
for my first time inking a pencaller. It's strangely
a matter of psyching yourself into a ~~new~~ specific
approach to comics. In this case I started by trying to
"see" Marshall's work as a reader's point of view page by
page, reading very intensively and meticulously. By the end of
the 15th day I realized that I was getting ~~frustrated~~ almost
no return in my efforts. The record daily, I started in again
this time, trying to apply my own viewpoint to the pictures.
I started visualizing camera angles which broke more dramatically
from the action before & after. It was all trial & error to see
how to give a little breathing space and enable myself to see the
page as a single unit rather than 150 separate inking
problems. As I worked I also found dropping out panel
borders completely (a la Marshall, Al Williamson,
etc.) gave me that much more compassion.
As I write this I am awaiting Marshall Rogers' pencils for the
F.O.O.C. portfolio to ink. I'm hoping I haven't forgotten all
the solutions I worked so hard to develop.

Anyway, writing the story was a drag. I'm ~~still~~ disillusioned
enough by comics, but I am not on good speaking terms with
typewriters. I used to be a writer-only comic book
writer and believe me, after the time I had ripped several
dozen comic book scripts for every company publishing comics

HSANB 8-10/37 - New introduction to "The Name of the Game is Diamondback" the SWORDS OF CEREBUS volume one jam story I did with Marshall Rogers.

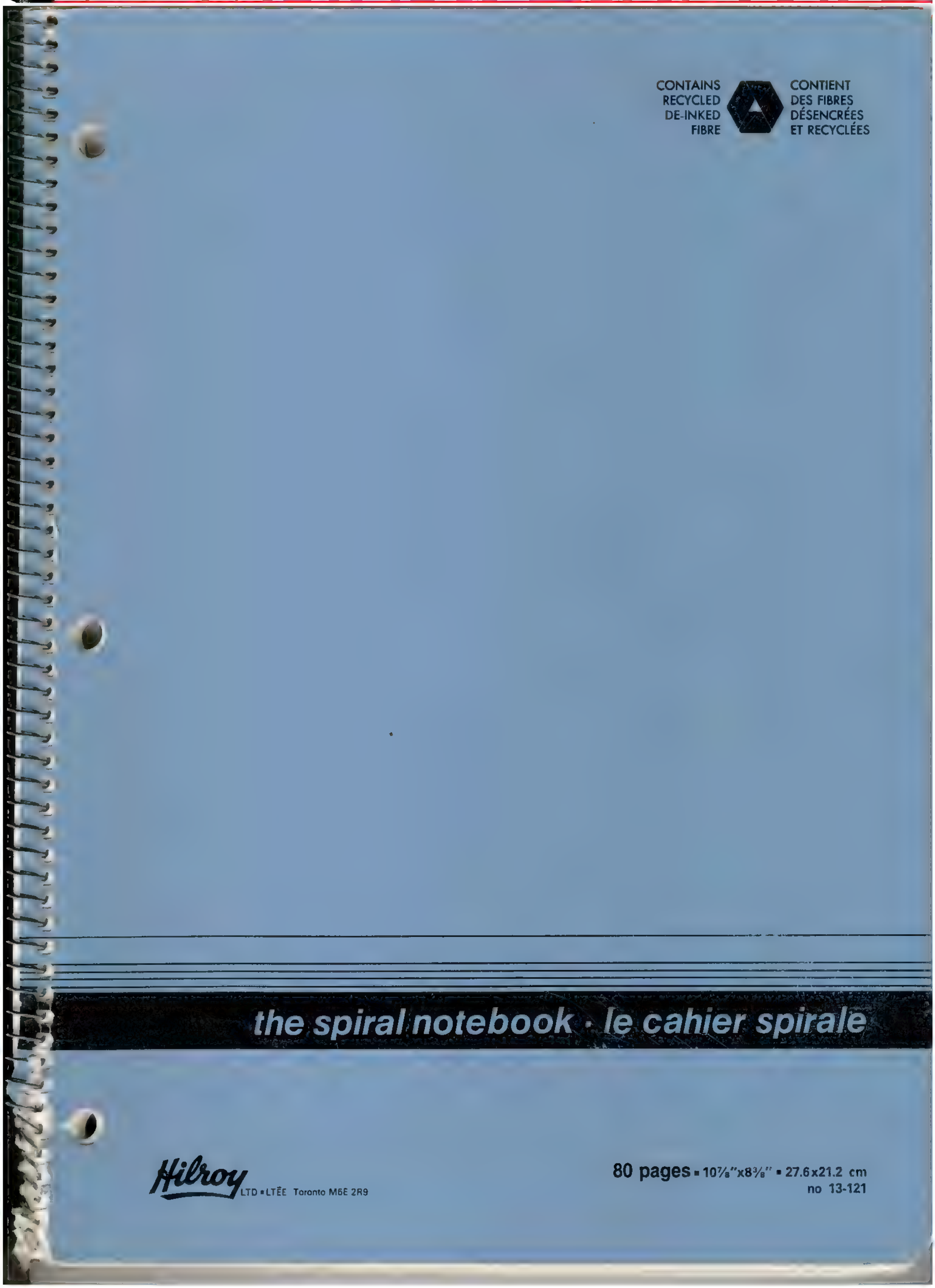


...publishing ... could be pushed into punkishing comic books. & finally sold two stories to Al Hewetson for Skywald's black and white horror book "Psycho". One of them appeared in the last issue. And I sold "Shadow of the Axe" to Warren Publishing which appeared in Vampy No.79, drawn by Russ Heath.
All I remember about that year is a lot of "noir" paper in ten and seventy and centre'ing paper backspace backspace. backspace. ~~#Steal the Impaler~~ "Steal the Impaler" spare space Chapter one Return Page one Return panel one colon space space space He Raged from his bed dot dot dot"

Dot dot dot was the word for it all right. My brain was numb for about fourteen months. over 1975-76 is all I can tell you is that I hated this story with a passion the moment I typed the ~~last~~ Last word of it... and it has been going up in my estimation ever since.

HSANB 8-10/37 - New introduction to "The Name of the Game is Diamondback" the SWORDS OF CEREBUS volume one jam story I did with Marshall Rogers.

HSANB 11/37 - Another cover sketch for SWORDS OF CEREBUS volume 4.


CONTAINS RECYCLED DE-INKED FIBRE
CONTIENT DES FIBRES DÉSENCRÉES ET RECYCLÉES
the spiral notebook · le cahier spirale
Hilroy LTD • LTÉE Toronto M6E 2R9
80 pages • 10⅞"x8⅜" • 27.6x21.2 cm
no 13-121

I began using notebooks to plot CEREBUS beginning with issue 20. I called the notebook my "albatross" since it was always with me, a constant reminder of work I had to do. Plotting for HIGH SOCIETY began on page 135 of the 200-page "Albatross One" (although much plotting of the various political factions takes place on the earlier pages and on – now long gone – scraps of paper).

CEREBUS #37 (APRIL 1982)

"PETUNIACON"
"DAY ONE"
or
"IT'S SHOWTIME!"

#energy
Cerebus pulling ~~things~~ out of his head exercise.
Started doing something interesting besides it wasn't much of a fight
talk story of PRIME MINISTER when she had a feud with and all the weird shit he did to get rid of her

Where the hell have you been.

DID YOU KNOW THE PRIME MINISTER WANTED ~~FOUR AND ONE HALF HOURS~~ UNTIL AFTER MIDNIGHT FOR YOU TO COME BACK

I know the incident to which you are referring
I am afraid the answer is no.

WHAT HAVE YOU GOT IN YOUR HAND

That was the senior demonstrator of our discipline in Togith. He is somewhat "extravagant..." in his application of my theories of narcotic ~~experimentation~~

SWORD

WHAT?

Page (2)
Astoria
75

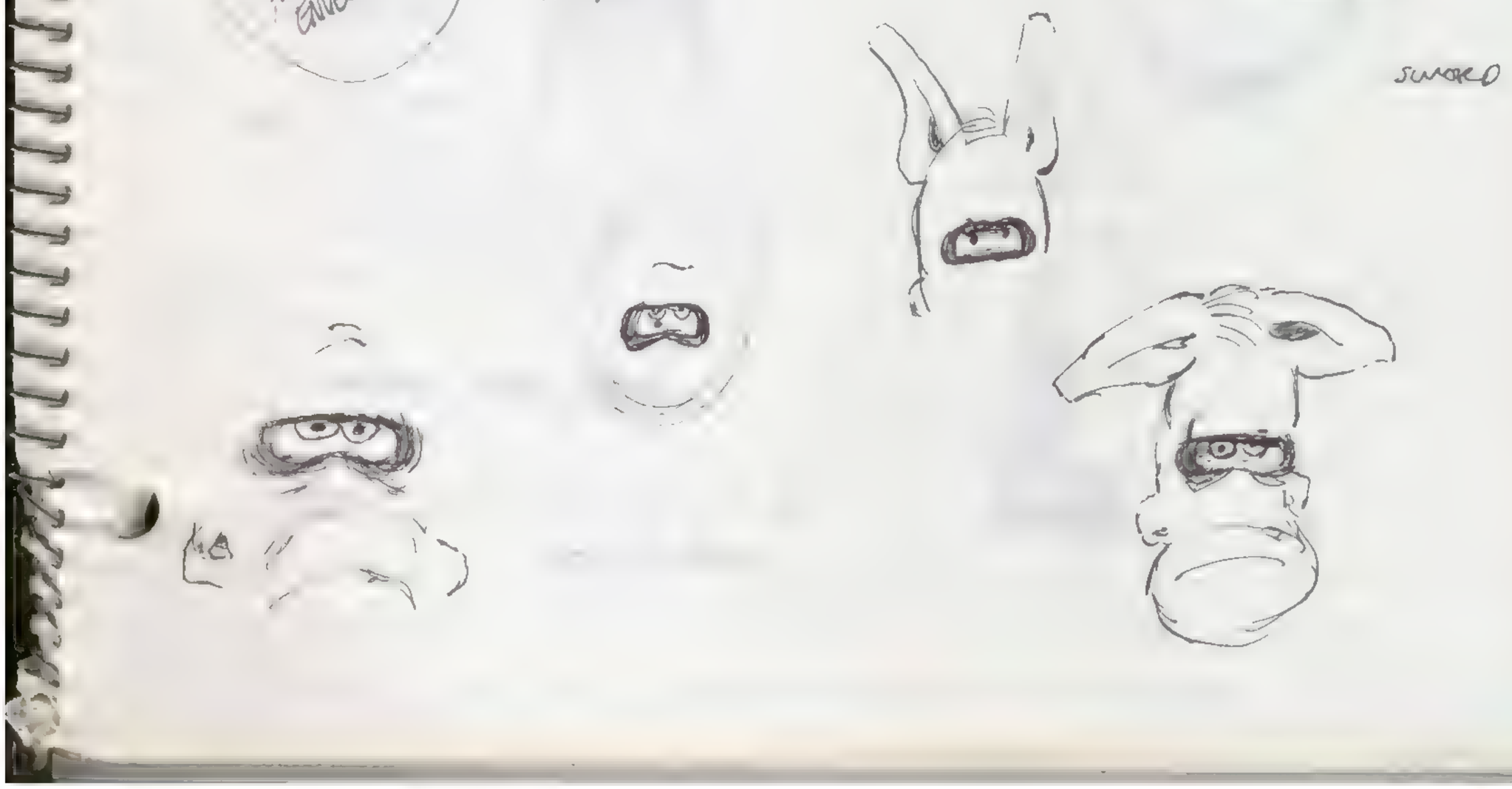
HOLDING A LARGE ENVELOPE AND A SMALL ENVELOPE

A... CEREBUS!

WELL - PUT - IT - DOWN...

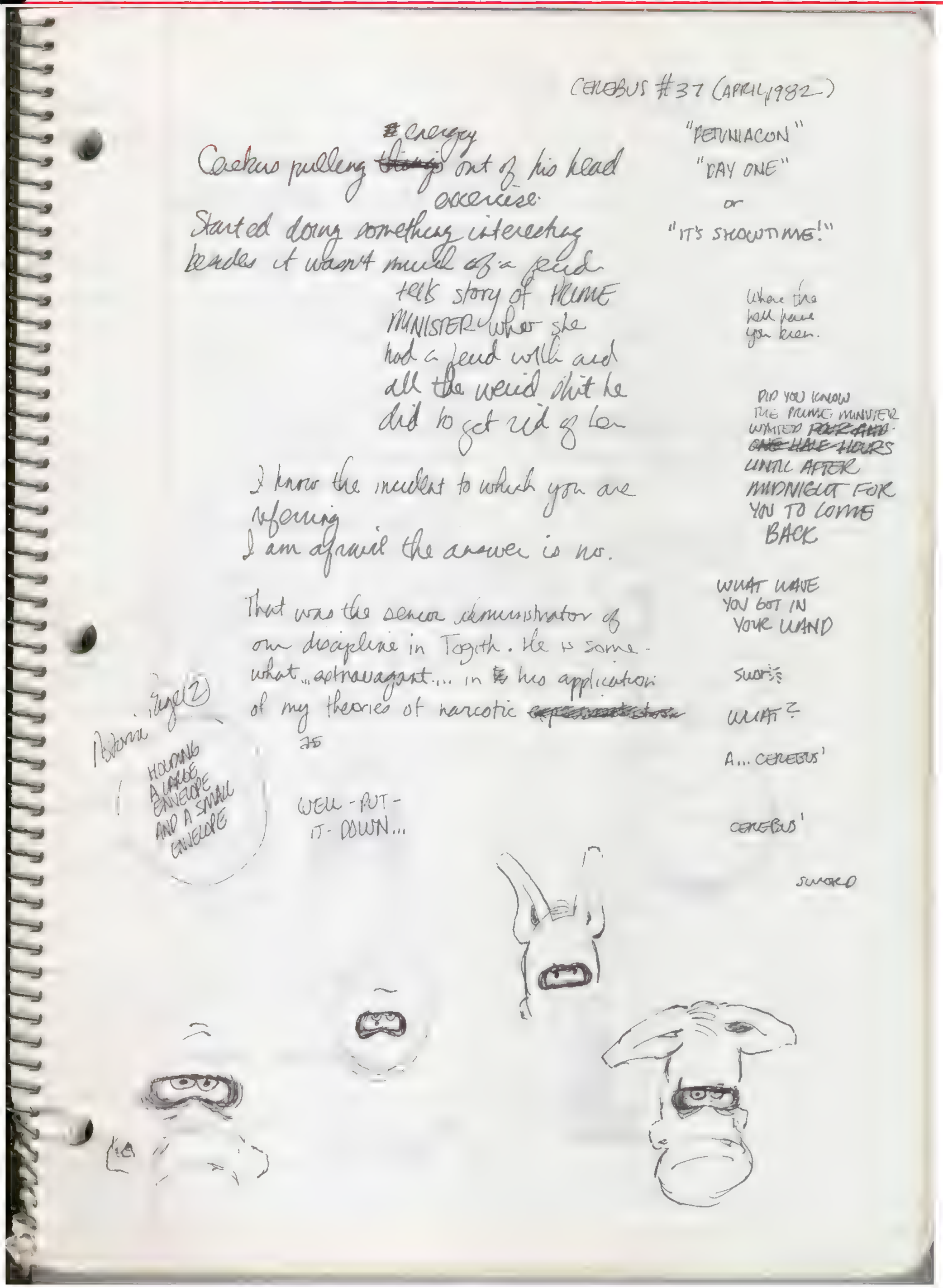
CEREBUS!

SWORD



HSANB 12/37 - I wanted to bring in Suenteus Po at first instead of Bran Mak Mufin. Not THE Suenteus Po, but A Suenteus Po – the name Suenteus Po for Illusionists is like the name Muhammad for Muslims – who would claim to be THE Suenteus Po (they do that a lot).
"Cerebus pulling energy out of his head[. E]xercise.

continued...


CEREBUS #37 (APRIL 1982)
"PETVNIACON"
"DAY ONE"
or
"IT'S SHOWTIME!"
#energy
Cerebus pulling ~~things~~ out of his head exercise.
Started doing something interesting besides it wasn't much of a fight tells story of PRIME MINISTER who she had a feud with and all the weird shit he did to get rid of her
I know the incident to which you are referring
I am afraid the answer is no.
That was the senior administrator of our discipline in Togith. He is somewhat "extravagant" in his application of my theories of narcotic
Where the hell have you been.
DID YOU KNOW THE PRIME MINISTER WAITED ~~FOUR AND ONE HALF HOURS~~ UNTIL AFTER MIDNIGHT FOR YOU TO COME BACK
WHAT HAVE YOU GOT IN YOUR HAND
SWO*S
WHAT?
A... CEREBUS'
CEREBUS'
SWORD
HOLDING A LARGE ENVELOPE AND A SMALL ENVELOPE
WELL-PUT-IT-DOWN...

Tells story of Prime Minister [Suenteus Po the Regency Elf] had a feud with and all the weird s-t he did to get rid of her."
[CEREBUS: Was that you?]
PO: I know the incident to which you are referring. I am afraid the answer is no. That was the senior administrator of [my] own discipline in Togith. He is somewhat...extravagant... in his application of my theories of narcotic-as.

That's as far as I got. I also originally had Astoria asking Cerebus:
ASTORIA: What have you got in your hand?
CEREBUS: swo*
ASTORIA: What?
CEREBUS: A...Cerebus'....Cerebus'...
CEREBUS: ...sword.
[ASTORIA: Well-Put It Down.]

EITHER END of the room are CEREBUS and Elrod

Pb① CEREBUS LEANING GREENHOUSE
② Where the hell have you been Cerebus.. Cerebus was and what's that.
It's a...
CEREBUS!
SWORD

WHAT?
CEREBUS!...SWORD.
WELL PUT IT DOWN!
LORD JULIUS SENT YOUR TAX RETURN FROM PALNU WHILE YOU WERE OFF SOMEWHERE PLAYING SOLDIER

ANARCHO-ROMANTICS.
WE HAVE THIS. WE HAVE WHAT WE BELIEVE!

YOU TALK FUNNY, TOO.

SENT WHAT?

YOUR TAX RETURN. IT'S ALREADY BEEN FILLED OUT. BY LORD JULIUS' ADMINISTRATORS

CEREBUS OWES TAX?

EIGHT HUNDRED AND TWENTY SEVEN THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND SIXTY THREE CROWNS AND FORTY-TWO COPPER BITS.

(SAGS AGAINST SOMETHING)

~~WELL DON'T CEREBU~~

CHEQUE
~~HE~~ HE SAYS HE'LL TAKE A ~~CHECK~~

HSANB 13/37 - Same exchange with Astoria, phrased slightly differently and then segueing into:
ASTORIA: Lord Julius sent your tax return from Palnu while you were off somewhere playing soldier.
CEREBUS: Sent what?
ASTORIA: Your tax return. It's already been filled out. By Lord Julius' Administrator.

continued...

EITHER END of the room are CEREBUS and Elrod

P6 ① CEREBUS LEANING GREENHOUSE
② Where the hell have you been Cerebus.. Cerebus was and what's that.
It's a...
CEREBUS!
SWORD

WHAT?
CEREBUS!...SWORD.
WELL PUT IT DOWN!
LORD JULIUS SENT YOUR TAX RETURN FROM PALNU WHERE YOU WERE OFF SOMEWHERE PLAYING SOLDIER

ANARCHO-ROMANTICS.
WE HAVE THIS. WE HAVE WHAT WE BELIEVE!

YOU TALK FUNNY, TOO.

SENT WHAT?

YOUR TAX RETURN. IT'S ALREADY BEEN FILLED OUT. BY LORD JULIUS' ARMANUENSIS/AUDITOR

CEREBUS OWES TAX?

EIGHT HUNDRED AND TWENTY SEVEN THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND SIXTY THREE CROWNS AND FORTY-TWO COPPER BITS.

(SAGS AGAINST SOMETHING)

~~HE DOES~~ ~~CEREBUS~~

HE SAYS HE'LL TAKE A ~~CHEQUE~~ CHEQUE

~~HE WILL~~

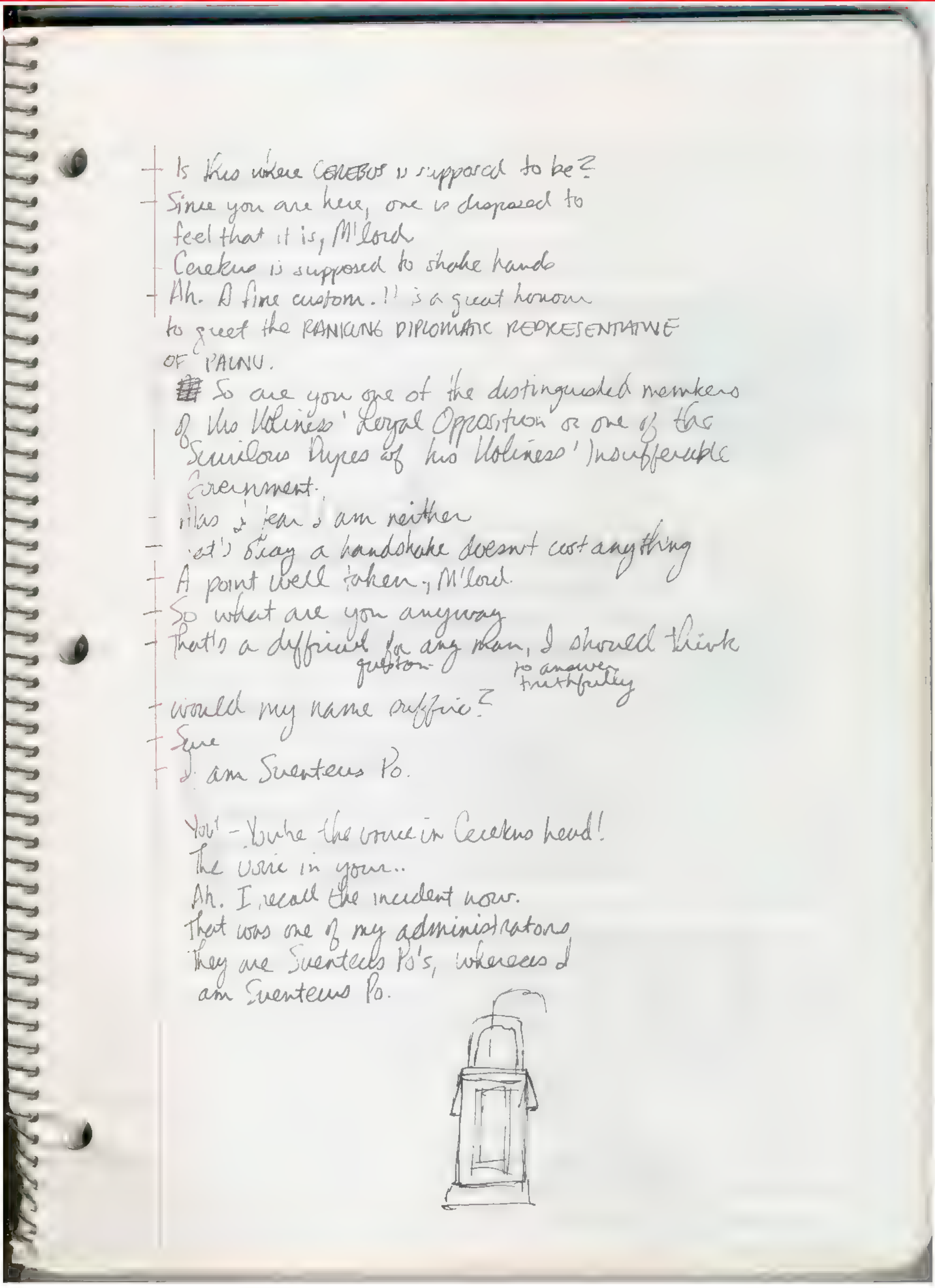
CEREBUS: Cerebus owes tax?
ASTORIA: Eight hundred and twenty-seven thousand, nine hundred and sixty-three crowns and forty-two copper bits.
CEREBUS: (sags against something)
ASTORIA: He says he'll take a cheque.

– Is this where CEREBUS is supposed to be?
– Since you are here, one is disposed to feel that it is, M'lord
– Cerebus is supposed to shake hands
– Ah. A fine custom. It is a great honour to greet the RANKING DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE OF PALNU.
– So are you one of the distinguished members of His Holiness' Loyal Opposition or one of the Serious Types of his Holiness' Insufferable Government.
– Alas I fear I am neither
– Let's say a handshake doesn't cost anything
– A point well taken, M'lord.
– So what are you anyway
– That's a difficult question for any man, I should think to answer truthfully
– would my name suffice?
– Sure
– I am Suenteus Po.

You! – You're the voice in Cerebus head!
The voice in your...
Ah. I recall the incident now.
That was one of my administrators They are Suenteus Po's, whereas I am Suenteus Po.

HSANB 14/37 - Another try at bringing Suenteus Po in – he would have been the only one in the Oak Room.
CEREBUS: Is this where Cerebus is supposed to be?
PO: Since you are here, one is disposed to feel that it is, M'lord.
CEREBUS: Cerebus is supposed to shake hands.

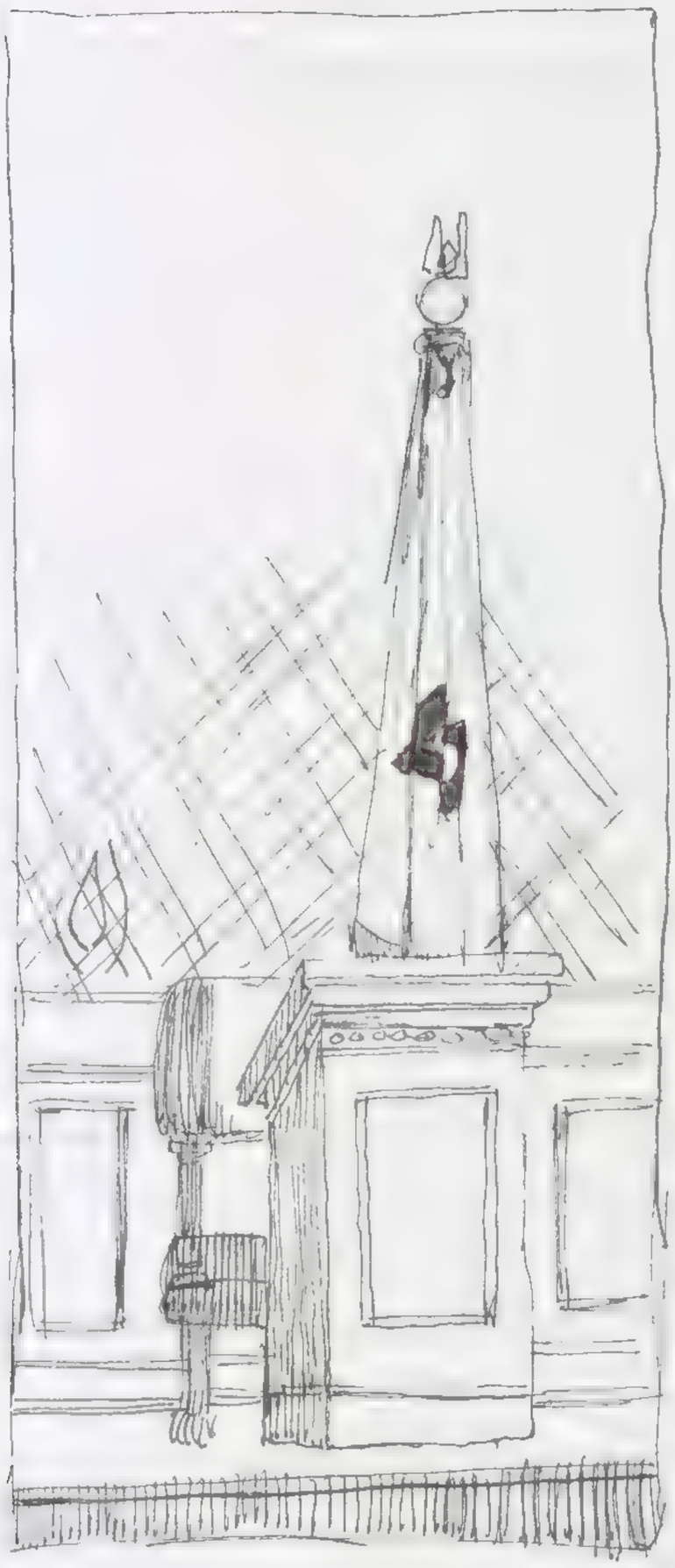
continued...

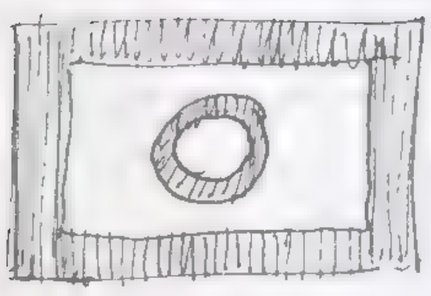

Is this where CEREBUS is supposed to be?
Since you are here, one is disposed to feel that it is, M'lord
Cerebus is supposed to shake hands
Ah. A fine custom. It is a great honour to greet the RANKING DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE OF PALNU.
So are you one of the distinguished members of His Holiness' Loyal Opposition or one of the Scurrilous Dupes of his Holiness' Insufferable Government.
Alas, I fear I am neither
Let's say a handshake doesn't cost anything
A point well taken, M'lord.
So what are you anyway
That's a difficult question for any man to answer truthfully, I should think. Would my name suffice?
Sure
I am Suenteus Po.
You! - You're the voice in Cerebus head!
The voice in your..
Ah. I recall the incident now.
That was one of my administrators
They are Suenteus Po's, whereas I
am Suenteus Po.

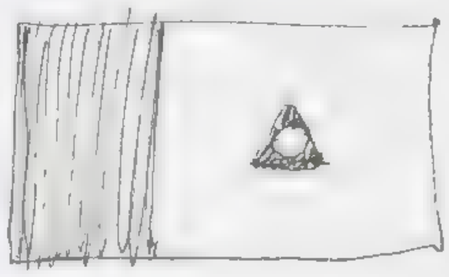
PO: Ah. A fine custom. It is a great honour to greet the Ranking Diplomatic Representative of Palnu.
CEREBUS: So are you one of the distinguished members of His Holiness' Loyal Opposition [...] or one of the Scurrilous Dupes of His Holiness' Insufferable Government.
PO: Alas, I fear I am neither.
CEREBUS: That's okay. A handshake doesn't cost anything.
PO: A point well taken, M'lord.
CEREBUS: So [-] what are you [,] anyway[?]
PO: That's a difficult question for any man to answer truthfully, I should think. Would my name suffice?
CEREBUS: Sure.
PO: I am Suenteus Po.
CEREBUS: You! - You're the voice in Cerebus' head!

PO: The voice in your...[?] Ah. I recall the incident now. That was one of my administrators. They are Suenteus Po's, whereas I am Suenteus Po.

The "I recall the incident now" was going to be a running gag any time that an Illusionist got caught in a contradiction. It was an administrator, not them. But it was already going to take up three pages and then would require another Suenteus Po to come in to become the germ of a gag and ANOTHER Suenteus Po to be a "running gag". I needed to "cut to the chase". Have Astoria chew him out, get the sword put away, get him to Petuniacon and the Oak Room and bring in Bran Mak Mufin with the idea of Cerebus becoming Prime Minister in AS FEW PAGES AS POSSIBLE. But I didn't know that yet.







FLAG OF PALNLI

HSANB 15/37 - Designing the Oak Room and a detail of what it would look like. I decided to just put the lectern and chair in the middle of a big expanse of a carpet to really emphasize the emptiness.

37 APR

#37

(1) CEREBUS LEAVING GREENHOUSE
(2) STANDING AT DOOR HAVE YOU BEEN
(3) CONVENTION HAS BEEN OPENED FOR ALMOST AN HOUR
(4) ~~[illegible]~~
(5) ~~THE~~ CHECKING IN AT THE DESK
(6)
(7)
(8)
(9)
(10)
(11)
(12)
(13)
(14)
(15)
(16)
(17)
(18)
(19)
(20)

BUT YOU ARE NOT TO DO OR SAY ANYTHING.

HURRY- ~~[illegible]~~
EVERY SENATOR
EVERY BUREAUCRAT
~~[illegible]~~
EVERY SINGLE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LEGISLATURE IS GOING TO BE THERE AND YOU'RE OFF PLAYING BARBARIAN SOMEPLACE

THE BLUE ROOM

1
2
3
4
5

FOLLOWS

I HAVEN'T GOT TIME TO TELL YOU WHAT YOU SHOULD AND SHOULDN'T SAY.

a one hundred and thirteen elected representatives wanting to shake your hand

I HAVEN'T EVEN GOT YOUR DIPLOMATIC SASH ON

EMPTY ROOM

INVENTION STARTED OVER AN HOUR AGO

YOU WANT TO THROW AWAY YOUR WHOLE DIPLOMATIC CAREER IS THAT IT?

IF YOU'RE THINKING OF HAVING A BATH YOU CAN FORGET IT--THERE ISN'T TIME.

SO KEEP TALKING BUT DON'T SAY ANYTHING

TOM TO KEEP EVERYONE IN THE ROOM AT A FEVER PITCH

YOU MIGHT LIKE LORD JULIUS DOES

YES, BUT BE DULL INSTEAD OF FLIPPANT ~~BUT NOT AS FLIPPANT~~

HSANB 16/37 - The now-condensed opening, done in five thumbnail sketches of the first five pages.

THE RANKING DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE
OF PALNU AND ASTORIA, DUICHESS OF SOMETHING ON
THE PALNU MAP.

YES MA'AM
HERE ARE YOUR BADGES.

~~WE NEED A BUREAUCRAT CHECK~~ YOU THERE, BUREAUCRAT
~~HERE...~~

~~SHOW THESE PEOPLE~~
YOUR HOSPITALITY ROOM IS AT
THE END OF THE HALL TO
THE RIGHT.

THANK YOU.

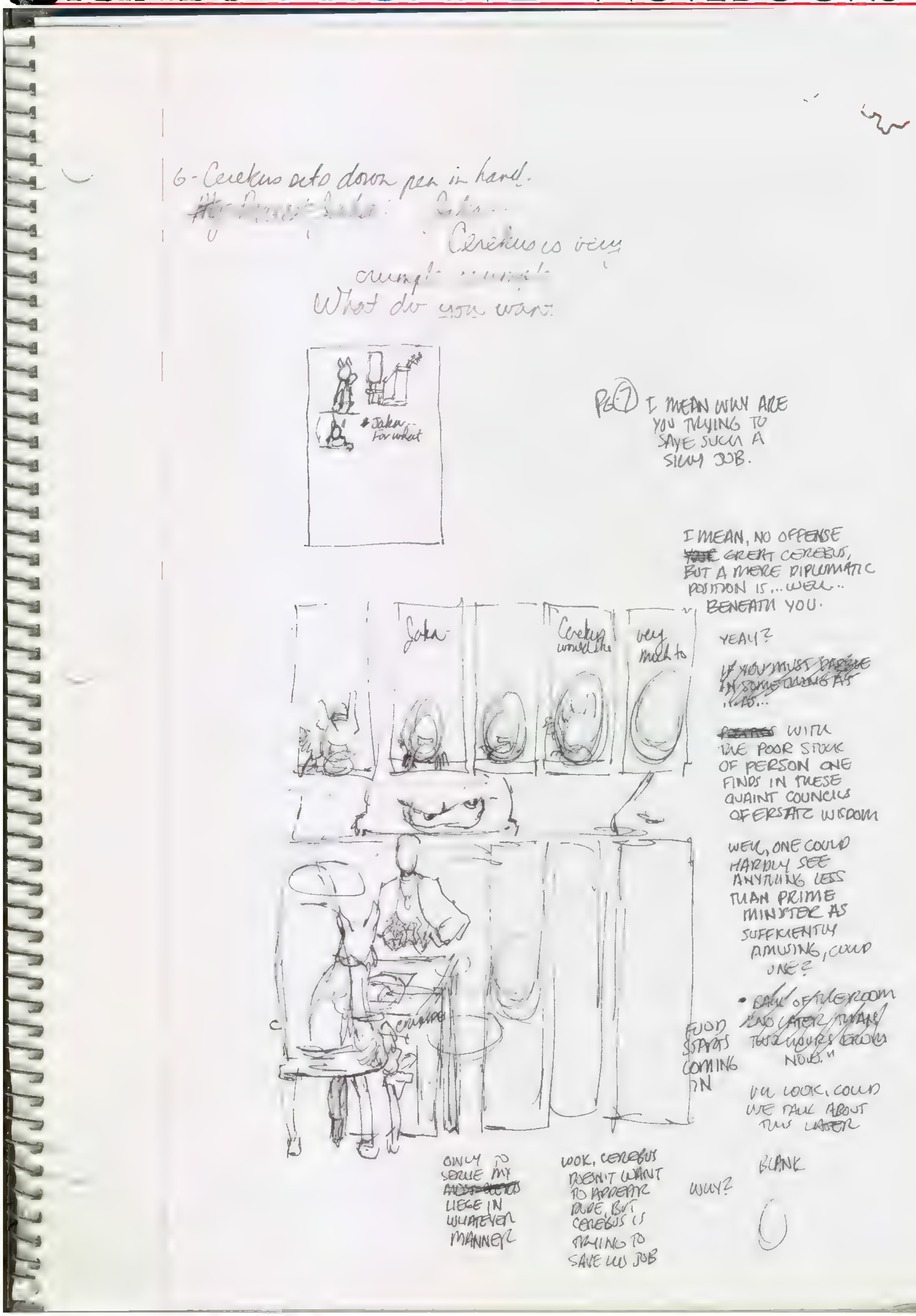
⑥ last minute instructions and empty.
⑦ ~~It's~~ Empty room Some mistake check it out
⑧ Cerebus is supposed to shake hands
I am Suenteus Po.
The voice in Cerebus' head.
Voice in...? Ah, yes. I know the incident to which you refer. That was my administrator's in Tog ith

*Cerebus No. 20 ("Mind Game")

For purposes of continuity the senior Illuminist in any city is referred to as "Suenteus Po"

And what about the time just a fortnight ago ~~here in the hall~~ after Cerebus was kidnapped. Since I have no knowledge of any such incident I would have to assume the individual involved was an imposter.

HSANB 17/37 - At this point I was still trying to use the five pages as a base and expand it carefully while still introducing Suenteus Po, cutting a lot of the "fat" off of his conversation with Cerebus.


6- Cerebus sets down pen in hard.
Cerebus is very
What do you want.
Jaka for what
PG 7 I MEAN WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO SAVE SUCH A SILLY JOB.
I MEAN, NO OFFENSE GREAT CEREBUS, BUT A MERE DIPLOMATIC POSITION IS... WELL.. BENEATH YOU.
YEAH?
WITH THE POOR STOCK OF PERSON ONE FINDS IN THESE QUAINT COUNCILS OF ERSATZ WISDOM
WELL, ONE COULD HARDLY SEE ANYTHING LESS THAN PRIME MINISTER AS SUFFICIENTLY AMUSING, COULD ONE?
Jaka
Cerebus would like
very much to
FOOD STUFFS COMING ON
ONLY TO SERVE MY LIEGE IN WHATEVER MANNER?
LOOK, CEREBUS DOESN'T WANT TO APPEAR RUDE, BUT CEREBUS IS TRYING TO SAVE HIS JOB
WHY?
BLINK

HSANB 18/37 - That was when I came up with the idea of Cerebus trying to write a letter to Jaka and then bringing Bran Mak Mufin in and – instead of over-writing their dialogue and then cutting the "fat" off of it, just keep it very basic: he's there to serve and he thinks Cerebus should be Prime Minister. Pages 8 and 9 done. Moving the plot one giant step forward as Astoria looks at how the 113 representatives would vote if it was a contest for Prime Minister instead of Ranking Diplomatic Representative.

(8) I UNDERSTAND, GREAT CEREBUS "HE WILL ABIDE NONE WHO WILL INTERFERE WITH HIS LIFE, HIS WAYS OR HIS MANY WIVES AND CONCUBINES."

PASSING EACH OTHER MURRAY

WHAT'S ALL THIS

~~FREEKIN' I SEND FOR~~ FREE FOOD.

THAT'LL DRAW THE REPRESENTATIVES IN HERE... YOU KEEP THEM TALKING WHEN THEY GET HERE... A CROWD WILL DRAWS A BIGGER CROWD...

WHO WAS THAT, BY THE WAY?

WOLF? OH, ~~NOTHING~~ DON'T WORRY IT'S NOT IMPORTANT.

I'VE HAD ~~I'M BORED~~ ENOUGH OF PEOPLE TELLING ME WHAT IS AND ISN'T IMPORTANT WELL - WAS IT?

(9) A mutter -- that's all -- he said Cerebus' joke wasn't good enough -- that Cerebus shouldn't settle for anything less than Prime Minister

TERUM'S BLOOD

Like Cerebus said - it's ~~not~~ not important

TERUM'S BLOOD

He's been following Cerebus around... & Talking gibberish like that for a while now.

TERUM'S BLOOD

It's not Cerebus fault... Cerebus keeps telling him to take a hike and he keeps coming back

TERUM'S ... BLOOD

IT WOULD WORK.

I KNOW IT WOULD

HSANB 19/37 - Trying to figure out which way to take the story. "What's it like, living with Lord Julius' ex-wife?" Yeah. What was I saving the revelation for? A rainy day? Look at the issue title: "It's Showtime!" Let's get this show on the road!

I HAVE TO TALK TO SOME PEOPLE...

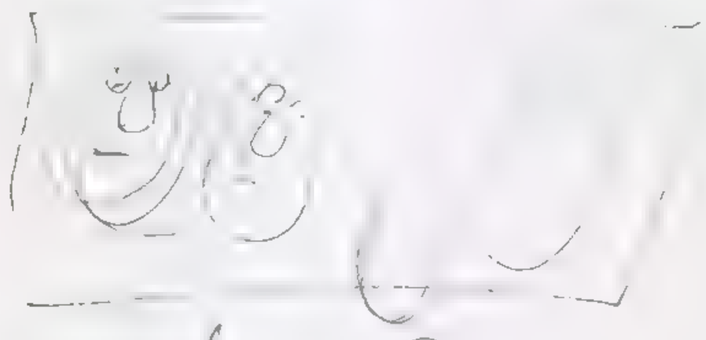
YEAH RIGHT.. SEE YOU LATER, ELEN.

(10) I say! That Elrod is quite the chap, ~~[illegible]~~ isn't he! ~~[illegible]~~ Aye -- that ruggedness that's what we've needed. A little of the old muscle to show those Sepraus a-thing're two.

What's it like living with Lord Julius' ex-wife?

What are you going to do when you leave...

Lame & Cheekes won't leaving. Cheekes is going to be confused



What's the matter? Didn't Didn't anyone tell you.

ninety eight of the one hundred and thirteen are now on record as favouring Elrod.

HSANB 20/37 - In the same spirit, this was the first time I mapped out the remaining issues instead of "our story thus far" in terse phrase point form. What do I have to get across and how much space do I have to do it in? At the bottom, the dialogue with Filgate. There, it's done. (That was an actual line used by Phil Seuling when Deni and I were staying at his house in Brooklyn in 1979 and he told me that I needed to reprint the early issues – like they did with ZAP comics and THE FABULOUS FURRY FREAK BROTHERS. And I told him, no, I didn't want to diminish the collectibility of the book.

continued...

I HAVE TO TALK TO SOME PEOPLE...

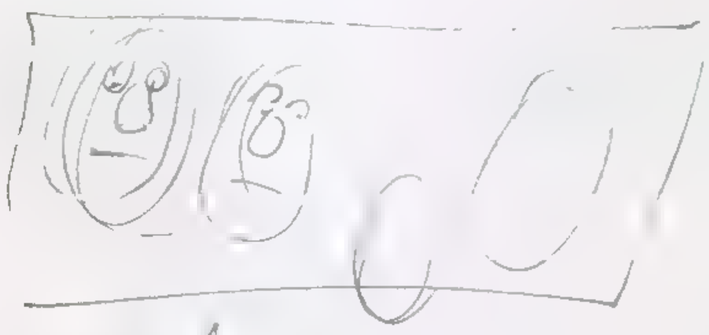
YEAH RIGHT.. SEE YOU LATER, DEEN.

(10) I say! That Elrod is quite the chap, ~~[illegible]~~ isn't he! ~~[illegible]~~ Aye -- that ruggedness that's what we've needed. A little of the old muscle to show those Sepraus a thing're two.

What's it like living with Lord Julius' ex-wife?

What are you going to do when you leave...

Leave? Cerebus isn't leaving. Cerebus is going to be confirmed



What's the matter? Didn't Didn't anyone tell you

ninety eight of the one hundred and thirteen are now on record as favouring Elrod

"Fine. Fine. Live on nuts and berries for the rest of your life." And he stalked off. Deni told me I shouldn't have upset him. Well, I wasn't going to run my business in a way I didn't think made sense just to keep from upsetting "Uncle Phil").

37 - PETUNIACON DAY
38 - PETUNIACON ~~NIGHT~~ DAY Duel with Elrod
39 - PETUNIACON DAY ~~Duel with Elrod~~
40 ~~PETUNIACON NIGHT~~ CEREBUS NOMINATED FOR PRIME MINISTER
41 ~~PETUNIACON DAY~~ CAMPAIGN
42 CAMPAIGN
43 ~~CAMPAIGN~~ ELECTION!
44 PRIME MINISTER
45 PRIME MINISTER
46 ~~PETAL~~ BARBARIANS COMING ALLIES WITH PIGTS
47 PIGTS WITHIN RANGE BRING ONE BACK HO HO HO!
48 CEREBUS AND HIS ARMIES. THROWING HIS WEIGHT AROUND
49
50

NEWSPAPER WARS

REPRESENT WHAT?
DADOCKS! DADOCKS! YOU KNOW--
WHERE DA BOATS COME IN--
DADOCKS

OH. THE DOCKS
ATS WHAT I SAID
- DA DOCKS.

WE COULD HELP EACH UDDAH, YAKNOW?
~~HE TOO WAS TIRED A SEDDA TOO~~
A LITTLE ENCARAGEMENT GOES A LONG WAY, ~~HUH~~?
MONEY...?
I FIGYUH -- TWO GRAND -- IN SMALL BILLS... THAT WAY WHEN YOUAH SLUP COMES IN -- IT'LL MAKE IT. IF Y'FOLLA ME?
SO WHAT ELSE DOES CEREBUS GET

FOIN! FOIN! LIVE ON NUTS AND BARKLES FOR DA RESTA YUH LIFE.

CEREBUS WILL HAVE TO THINK ABOUT IT.

I'M DOIN' YOU A FAVUH.

WHUD ELSE? WHUDDEM I? DA GOODWILL?

HSANB 21/37 - Not getting anywhere, I then needed the confidence builder of "our story thus far" and trying to map out the next few issues.

DO YOU KNOW ELROD PERSONALLY

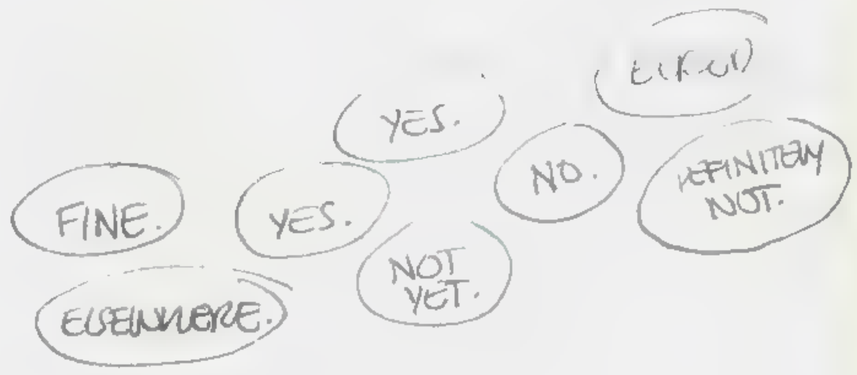
AYE

WHAT'S HE REALLY LIKE...

38 DUEL W/ELROD DUEL W/ASTORIA

26 ENTERS HOTEL
27 KIDNAPPED
28 MIND GAME
29 ELF
30 HOLAND M.UNDOEN/ELF
31 MOON ROACH / ASTORIA
32 ASTORIA / MOON ROACH
33 ASTORIA / MOON ROACH
34 ELROD / MOON ROACH / ASTORIA / BRAN
35 BRAN MAKMUFIN / CHANGE OF LOOK
36 JAKA
37 VARIOUS DIFFERENT LEGISLATURE BOYS (INCONSEQUENTIAL)
SUENTEUS PO.
"HARD ROCK TO HOW AHEAD OF YOU."
"ASTORIA DOES NOT TELL YOU MUCH-- DOES SUEZ?"

39 VARIOUS LEGISLATURE BOYS (IMPORTANT)
40 CAMPAIGN BEGINS
41 CAMPAIGN CONTINUES
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50



ARE YOU REALLY IN THE AMBASSADOR SUITE.

WHAT'S IT LIKE LIVING WITH LORD JULIUS' EX-WIFE?

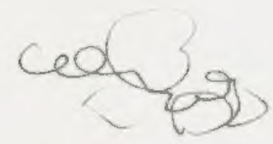
LOOK AT THAT FACE! THAT FACE SCARES ME

PAGE
37

14 CEREBUS ANSWERS QUESTION
15
16
17
18
19
20 WE DECIDED NOT TO BRING ELROD IN UNTIL TOMORROW.

#38- CEREBUS HAS NEVER BEEN IN ANY BATTLES ONE WEARS ABOUT... HAS HE?

HSANB 22/37 - What if Cerebus decides to "crash" Lord Julius' and Elrod's costume party for the representatives?
LORD JULIUS: I'm sorry you need a costume to come in.
CEREBUS: A costume. How does a black vest and three medallions sound?
LORD JULIUS: Like a Kitchen Staff Supervisor I once knew, now that you mention it.



LORD JULUS
I'm sorry you need a
costume to come in.
A costume
Why does a black vest and
three medallions count?
Like a kitchen staff uniform
I once knew, now that you
mention it.

#37
Pg 16

17

18

19

20

Message from Astoria: I have an All night meeting. Go directly to the Suite. ~~the~~ Stay there until tomorrow. Talk to no one.
A.

HSANB 23/37 - I sometimes had to cut interesting details, like this exchange after the artist/collector guy refers to the "art-starved representatives":
CEREBUS: "Art starved"?
ACG: The Inquisition outlawed all rendering of images unless of religious origin.
It's informative but the scene is building to a punchline, a funny climax and "Inquisition" (Monty Python aside); "outlawed"; "images"; and "religious origin" are not good words to use in building to a punchline.

Hundred
Fifty Five ~~Thousand~~ crowns.

Hey.. you're that artist
-- that collector guy

"One hundred and thirteen
fully rendered sketches,"
Lord Julius says -- "Travel
and accomodations paid
for." He was going to
pay fifty five hundred
crowns to each representative
living in this art-starved
society could have a picture
with Rose for Elrod written
across the top.
~~Elektus doesn't get it.~~ Art starved.
He was hopping it everywhere.
Got a free sketch at Petrunia
from Lord Julius' son King Elrod.

The ~~Church~~ Inquisition outlawed all rendering of images unless of religious origin

I guess Corekus doesn't have to ask

messag from Astoria, M'Lord.

When Representatives leave for
the vote return to ~~room~~ suite and
stay there. Talk to no one.
Astoria

HSANB 23/37 - "Right now, he's up in his suite, practicing his bunnies."
I should have used that. "Practicing his bunnies" is a great "feeder line" for a punchline.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THESE ARE?

~~XXX~~.

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEEN FULLY RENDERED SKETCHES COMMISSIONED BY LORD JULUS TO GIVE THE REPRESENTATIVES.

~~HE WAS GOIN~~ LANDSCAPES, PETS, BUILDINGS, BRIDGES, SUNSETS, SUNRISES. YOU NAME IT...

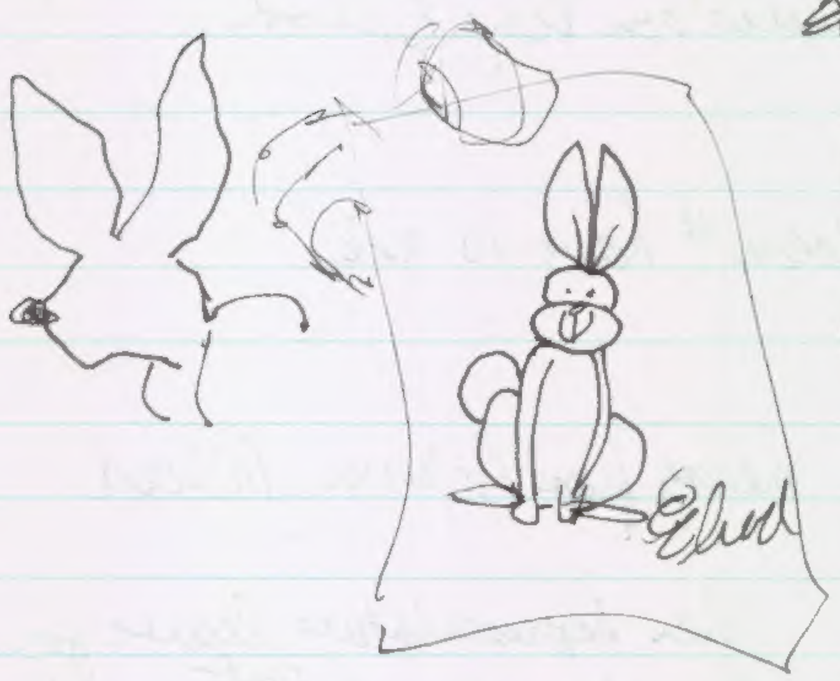
~~AND YOU DID~~

FIFTY FIVE HUNDRED PACNAN CROWNS, I WAS GOING TO GET. AND EVERYONE OF THEM HAD "VOTE FOR ELROD" HIDDEN SOMEWHERE IN THE BACKGROUND.)

~~So, why should~~

So, Lord Julius finds out, thanks to you, that the representatives would rather have an original drawing by the candidate himself

~~Voters wanted~~ THEY WANT ORIGINAL ELROD DRAWINGS.



Right now he's up in his suite paracharing his bunnies...

~~Preparing what~~

~~Drawings!~~

~~You're kidding~~

HERE! HAVE AN ELROD BUNNY!

HSANB 24/37 - Virtually finished punchline pages. Toyed with the idea of having Cerebus say: "The art-hungry public doesn't want BUNNIES, the art-hungry public wants TREES."

(Bunny and Tree were two characters Cat Yronwode came up with in her long-running "Fit to Print" column in THE COMICS BUYER'S GUIDE when Will Eisner told her that anyone can draw a comic strip – you just use the abilities and tools that you have).

DAVE SIM
CEREBUS
DAVE SIM
HIGH SOCIETY
church tate
church tate
JAKA STORY
MELMOTH
FLIGHT
WOMEN
READS
MINDS
GUYS
RICK'S STORY
GOING HOME
FARM VOID
CUTTER DAYS
THE LAST DAY